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Docket No.: 637.0001USU

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventors: Jörg Schultz, Johannes Wangler, Karl-Heinz Schuster
and Udo Dinger

For: Illumination System Particularly for EUV Lithography

Enclosed are:

- xxx Total pages 59 including: Specification (47 pps); Claims (11 pps);
Abstract (1 pp);
- xxx 25 sheets of drawings;
- xxx Declaration and Power of Attorney;
- xxx An Assignment of the Invention to: CARL-ZEISS-STIFTUNG TRADING AS
CARL ZEISS including \$40.00 recordation fee and Assignment Recordation
Form Cover Sheet;
- xxx Preliminary Amendment;
- xxx Information Disclosure Statement (with copies of patent);
- xxx Form-PTO-1449;
- Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status; and
- xxx Priority of application Serial No. 198 19 898.1, filed on May 5, 1998;
Priority of application Serial No. 199 03 807.4, filed on February 2, 1999,
Priority of application Serial No. 299 02 108. 4 filed on February 8, 1999,
in Germany is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120;
- xxx Priority document enclosed.

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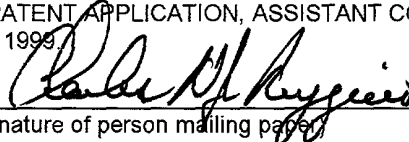
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Schultz et al.

Serial No: Not Yet Assigned

For: An Illumination System Particularly For EUV
Lithography

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-noted
patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1 through 52.

Add new claims 53 through 106 as follows:

53. An illumination system for wavelengths ≤ 193 nm, comprising:
- a light source having an illumination in a predetermined
surface;

a device for the production of a secondary light source;

a mirror or lens device having a mirror or lens, which is organized into a raster element;

an optical element, which is arranged between said mirror or lens device and a reticule plane, whereby said optical element images said secondary light source in an exit pupil of the illumination system, wherein

said raster element of said mirror or lens is shaped and arranged in such a way that an image of said raster element covers a major portion of said reticule plane, and wherein said exit pupil is illuminated, and said exit pupil is defined by an aperture and a filling ratio.

54. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said optical element comprises at least one field mirror or at least one field lens.

55. The illumination system according to claim 54, wherein said optical element is at most two field mirrors or field lenses.

56. The illumination system according to claim 54, wherein said field mirror is arranged in striped incidence.

57. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror or lens device comprises a mirror or a lens with a raster element formed as field honeycombs.

58. The illumination system according to claim 57, wherein said field honeycombs in their aspect ratio essentially correspond to that of a field to be illuminated in said reticule plane.

59. The illumination system according to claim 57, wherein said mirror or lens with said raster element produces said secondary light source.

60. The illumination system according to claim 53, further comprising a collector that collects light from said light source.

61. The illumination system according to claim 60, wherein said collector and said mirror or lens with said raster element produce said secondary light source.

62. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said light source radiates in a steradian greater than $\pi/2$.

63. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said light source radiates in a steradian smaller than $\pi/2$.

64. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror or lens device comprises a first mirror or lens with a multiple number of field honeycombs and a second mirror or lens with a multiple number of pupil honeycombs.

65. The illumination system according to claim 64, wherein said field honeycombs are arranged on said first mirror or lens in such a way that they do not overlap and their images cover a surface to be illuminated in said reticule plane.

66. The illumination system according to claim 64, wherein said pupil honeycombs are arranged on said second mirror or lens in such a way that their images, which are produced by said optical element, illuminate said exit pupil with a predetermined pattern.

67. The illumination system according to claim 66, comprising a light path between a pair of field and pupil honeycombs formed by rotating and tilting said field and said pupil honeycombs relative to one another.

68. The illumination system according to claim 66, comprising a light path constructed between a pair of field and pupil honeycombs by orienting and selecting a deflection angle of a prismatic component of said field honeycombs and said pupil honeycombs.

69. The illumination system according to claim 53, further comprising a zigzag beam path produced by field and pupil planes.

70. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror or lens device comprises a telescope system.

71. The illumination system according to claim 70, wherein said mirror or lens comprises said raster element, and is one mirror or lens of said telescope system.

72. The illumination system according to claim 70, wherein said telescope system comprises a collector mirror or collector lens.

73. The illumination system according to claim 72, wherein said telescope system additionally comprises a first mirror or lens with a multiple number of field honeycombs, whereby said collector mirror or said collector lens has positive refractive power and said first mirror or lens has negative refractive power.

74. The illumination system according to claim 70, wherein said telescope system comprises a first mirror or lens with a multiple number of field honeycombs and a second mirror or lens with a multiple number of pupil honeycombs, whereby said first mirror or lens has positive refractive power and said second mirror or lens has negative refractive power.

75. The illumination system according to claim 53, further wherein a distance from said light source to a field to be illuminated is smaller than 3 m.

76. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said illumination system comprises three to five mirrors, and wherein at least one mirror has striped incidence and at least one mirror has said raster element.

77. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said illumination system comprises four to five mirrors, and wherein at least two mirrors have grazing incidence and at least two mirrors have said raster elements.

78. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said raster element of said mirror is curved.

79. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said raster element of said mirror is planar.

80. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said raster element of said mirror has a surface that is arranged on a curved surface.

81. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said raster element of said mirror is arranged on a basic structure according to a type of Fresnel lens.

82. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said raster element of said mirror is tilted relative to an enveloping or bearing surface.

83. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror is comprised of at least two raster elements, said at least two raster elements are arranged in rows and each adjacent row is displaced relative to the other adjacent row by a fraction of a length of one of said raster elements.

84. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said light source has a steradian component of light radiated of 0.5π transported to a field.

85. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror device has an axial symmetric construction with central vignetting.

86. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror device has an outer axial course of a light bundle that is free of vignetting.

87. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said raster element has an aspect ratio of 1:1 to 1:20.

88. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein the illumination system has a field that is a rectangular field or an annular segment.

89. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror has a toroidal form, whereby cross sections can also have conical and aspherical components.

90. The illumination system according to claim 53, further comprising an optical element that has a function selected from the group consisting of imaging a secondary light source in an entrance pupil of a subsequent projection objective, remodeling a pre-given rectangular illumination by raster elements to form a field in a form of an annular segment, adjusting an intensity distribution over said field, and mixtures thereof.

91. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said mirror has a reflectivity that is position-dependent.

92. The illumination system according to claim 53, further comprising a field-side numerical aperture that amounts to approximately 0.01 to 0.1.

93. The illumination system according to claim 53, further comprising an accessible diaphragm plane.

94. The illumination system according to claim 93, further comprising a masking device at said diaphragm plane, with which a type of illumination can be adjusted.

95. The illumination system according to claim 53, wherein said light source is a synchrotron radiation source.

96. The illumination system according to claim 95, wherein said light source is an undulator source or a wiggler source.

97. EUV projection exposure unit for microlithography with an illumination system according to claim 53 comprising a mask on a carrier system, a projection objective, and a light-sensitive object on a carrier system.

98. The EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 97, wherein the unit is a scanning system.

99. The EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 97, further comprising an illumination intensity at said light-sensitive object, with an unstructured mask, that has position-dependent differences of less than $\pm 5\%$.

100. The EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 97, further comprising a scan energy at said light sensitive object, with an unstructured mask, that has position-dependent differences of less than $\pm 5\%$.

101. The EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 97, further comprising a vacuum window transparent to EUV that is arranged in a beam path.

102. The EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 101, wherein said vacuum window is arranged at a constriction of a light bundle in said illumination system.

103. A process for designing an illumination system for wavelengths ≤ 193 nm, said illumination system having:

a light source with any desired illumination in a predetermined surface,

a mirror or lens device having at least two mirrors or lenses, with each mirror or lens organized into a raster element,

an optical element arranged between said mirror or lens device and a reticule plane,

said process comprising the following steps:

arranging said raster element of a first mirror or lens to cover said surface without overlapping;

shaping said raster element of said first mirror or lens such that its form corresponds to that of a field to be illuminated, whereby a secondary light source is assigned to each said raster element;

arranging said raster element of a second mirror or lens to a position at said secondary light source;

shaping said raster element of said second mirror or lens such that its form corresponds to that of said secondary light source;

rotating or tilting said raster elements of said first and second mirrors or orienting and selecting an angle of deflection of a prismatic component of said raster elements of said first or second lens, a light path being produced, whereby a predetermined assignment of said raster elements of said first mirror or lens to said second mirror or lens is maintained, so that

said raster element of said first mirror or lens is imaged in said reticule plane by said raster element of said second mirror or lens;

an image of said raster element of said first mirror or lens is partially superimposed in said reticule plane; and

said secondary light source is imaged in an exit pupil by said optical element.

104. Process for the production of microelectronic components according to claim 53.

105. The illumination system according to claim 62, wherein said light source is a plasma focus source.

106. The illumination system according to claim 63, wherein said light source is a pinch-plasma source.

REMARKS

New claims 53 through 106 are added to properly protect the full scope of the invention.

Respectfully submitted,

May 4, 1999
Date

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ILLUMINATION SYSTEM PARTICULARLY FOR EUV LITHOGRAPHY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The invention concerns an illumination system according to the preamble of claim 1 as well as a projection exposure unit with such an illumination system.

In order to be able to further reduce the structural widths of electronic components, particularly in the submicron range, it is necessary to reduce the wavelengths of the light utilized for microlithography. Lithography with soft x-ray radiation, so-called EUV (extreme UV) lithography, is conceivable at wavelengths smaller than 193 nm, for example.

2. Description of the Prior Art

15 An illumination system suitable for EUV lithography will illuminate with as few reflections as possible the field provided for EUV lithography, particularly the annular field of an objective in a homogeneous manner, i.e., uniformly; further, the aperture diaphragm or pupil of the objective will be illuminated independent of field up to a specific filling ratio σ and the exit pupil of the illumination system will lie in the entrance pupil of the objective.

20 An illumination system for a lithographic device, which uses EUV radiation, has been made known from US 5,339,346. For uniform illumination in the reticle plane and filling of the pupil, US 5,339,346 proposes a condenser, which is constructed as a collector lens and comprises at least 4

pairs of mirror facets, which are arranged symmetrically. A plasma light source is used as the light source.

In US 5,737,137, an illumination system with a plasma light source comprising a condenser mirror is shown, in which an illumination of a mask or
 5 a reticle to be illuminated is achieved by means of spherical mirrors.

US 5,361,292 shows an illumination system, in which a plasma light source is provided, and the point plasma light source is imaged in an annular illuminated surface by means of a condenser, which has five aspherical
 10 mirrors arranged off-center. The annularly illuminated surface is then imaged in the entrance pupil by means of a special subordinate sequence of grazing-incidence mirrors.

From US 5,581,605, an illumination system has been made known, in which a photon beam is split into a multiple number of secondary light sources by means of a honeycomb condenser. In this way, a homogeneous
 15 or uniform illumination is achieved in the reticle plane. The imaging of the reticle on the wafer to be exposed is produced by means of a conventional reduction optics. A gridded mirror is precisely provided with equally curved elements in the illumination beam path. The contents of the above-mentioned patents are incorporated by reference.

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The task of the invention is to provide an illumination system that is constructed as simply as possible and a process for the design of such, with which the requirements for an exposure system for wavelengths of ≤ 193 nm,

particularly in the EUV region, can be fulfilled, and any desired light sources with any desired type of illumination in a predetermined surface A could be used as a light source. In particular, in addition to a uniform illumination of the reticle, the telecentry requirements of a system will be fulfilled for

5 wavelengths ≤ 193 nm.

In the present application, telecentry is understood to mean that the entire system is telecentric at the wafer. This requires an adaptation of the exit pupils of the illumination system to the entrance pupils of the objective, which are lying in the finite for a reflective reticle.

10 In the present application, the telecentry requirement is thus fulfilled, if the aberration of the centroid beam of illumination and objective in the reticle plane does not exceed a certain extent, for example ± 4.0 mrad, preferably ± 1.0 mrad, and the centroid beams impinge telecentrically on the wafer.

According to the invention, the task is resolved in that in the case of
 15 the illumination system of this overall concept, the raster elements or facets of the mirror or lens device are shaped and arranged on the mirror or the lens in such a way that the images of the raster elements or facets cover by means of the optical elements the major portion of the reticle plane, and that the exit pupil of the illumination system, which is defined by the aperture and
 20 filling degree, which is the entrance pupil of the reduction optics, is illuminated in an extensively uniform manner. Thus, the entrance pupil can also be varied according to field height, e.g., it can be axially displaced.

Whereas the system is purely reflective for wavelengths in the EUV region, i.e., is designed exclusively with mirror components, refractive components are utilized as lenses in the 193-nm or 157-nm system.

The system also makes available in the 193-nm or 157-nm region an
 5 illumination system or a construction principle, which has as few as possible optical elements as possible, such as, for example, lenses or prisms. This is important for 193 nm or 157 nm for that reason, since optical elements have high absorptions.

Further, the invention makes available a process for the design of an
 10 illumination system for wavelengths ≤ 193 nm, particularly for EUV lithography.

The process for the design of an illumination system comprising a light source with any desired illumination A in a predetermined surface, with a mirror or lens device comprising at least two mirrors or lenses, which are
 15 organized in raster elements, as well as optical elements, which are arranged between the mirror or lens device and the reticle plane, comprises the following steps according to the invention:

-- the raster elements of the first mirror or lens are arranged in such a way that the field is covered and have a form, which corresponds to that of
 20 the field to be illuminated, whereby a secondary light source is assigned to each raster element;

-- the raster elements of the second mirror or of the lens are arranged in such a way that they sit at the site of the secondary light source and have a form, which corresponds to that of the secondary light source;

-- a light path is produced between the mirrors or lenses by rotating and tilting the individual raster elements of the mirror or by orienting and selecting the deflection angle of the prismatic component of the lens(es), whereby a predetermined ordering of the raster elements of the first mirror or
 5 of the first lens to the raster elements of the second mirror or the second lens is maintained; so that

-- an overlapping of the images is achieved in the reticle plane and
 -- the secondary light sources are imaged in the exit pupil by the optical elements.

10 The field in the reticle or object plane is illuminated homogeneously and with partially filled aperture with the illumination system according to the invention and the process according to the invention. By introducing a field lens into such an illumination system, the exit pupil of the illumination system is put together with the entrance pupil of the objective.

15 Preferably, in the case of projection systems, this involves annular field systems, so that the field to be illuminated in the reticle plane represents an annular segment.

For forming the annular field, for producing the Etendu or optical flux and for homogenizing the field distribution, one or more of the mirrors is
 20 formed with raster elements similar to a honeycomb condenser in a special form of the invention.

A honeycomb condenser with planar carrier surface is represented from US 5,581,605, whose disclosure content is particularly included also to

the full extent in the disclosure of this application with respect to the production of such condensers.

In a particularly preferred manner, the honeycombs of the honeycomb condenser are to be configured in their geometry similar to that of the field to
 5 be illuminated, i.e., in the case of an annular field system with aspect ratio 1:V, the honeycombs can be configured as rectangles with an aspect ratio of 1:V.

In order to obtain a uniform illumination of the reticle even in the case of asymmetric light sources or those deviating from the point form and to
 10 satisfy the telecentric requirements – as defined previously, a second mirror or lens with raster elements is advantageously provided.

The raster elements of the first mirror or the honeycombs of the lens will be designated below as field honeycombs, and the raster elements of the second mirror or the honeycombs of the second lens will be designated as
 15 pupil honeycombs.

In order to take up the previously described “any desired” illumination (circular, rectangular, composite distributions) in surface A, and, on the other hand, to illuminate the pupil uniformly, it is of advantage if the honeycombs are made available on the mirror surface via the degrees relative to freedom
 20 of position and tilt. In the case of lens systems, these degrees of freedom can be produced, instead of the tilt and position of the individual honeycombs or raster elements, by orientation, deflection or leading-edge angle and position of the prisms in front of the individual honeycombs. According to the invention, the field honeycombs are to be arranged in such a way that the

illuminated entrance plane is optimally covered. The position of the pupil honeycombs is determined in such a way that one images the secondary light sources given in advance in the entrance pupil of the objective opposite the direction of light through the field lens into the diaphragm plane of the

5 illumination system.

After the arrangement of the individual honeycombs on the respective mirrors or lenses was determined based on the above boundary conditions, a connection of the light channels to the honeycombs can be produced, for example, by tilting of the field and pupil honeycombs in the mirror systems or

10 prismatic components. It is particularly preferred if the assignment of field and pupil honeycombs is selected in such a way that the tilt angle and the prismatic component are minimized. Alternatively, an ordering can be aimed at, in which the intensity distribution in the pupil is extensively homogeneous.

In order to correct the tilt in the pupil illumination that remains due to

15 the zigzag beam path, an adjustment of the reflectivity of the mirror or mirrors can be provided. The preferred further developments of the invention based on mirror systems will be described below as an example, without this being seen as a limitation to reflective systems. The person skilled in the art will transfer the measures named as examples without inventive activity also to

20 refractive systems, without this being explicitly mentioned.

In general, in the systems according to the invention, the uniformity of the field illumination and the distribution of the secondary light sources, which is responsible in turn for the filling degree σ , will be given by the number and arrangement of honeycombs of the first mirror, thus of the honeycomb

condenser. The shape of the illuminated field is given by the shape of the individual honeycombs on the first honeycomb plate. If a high aspect ratio of the individual honeycombs is present, then a uniform distribution of the secondary light sources can be achieved by line-wise displacement of the

5 honeycombs.

In the case of systems with two mirrors with raster elements, the shape of the honeycombs of the second mirror is adapted to the shape of the secondary light sources and thus is different from the shape of the first honeycombs. It is particularly preferred that these honeycombs are round, if

10 the light source is also shaped as round.

The optical elements arranged subsequently to the mirrors with raster elements, particularly honeycombs, serve for the purpose of imaging the second honeycomb plate, i.e., the pupil plane, in the entrance pupil of the projection objective, shaping the annular field, and producing the illumination

15 distribution according to the requirements of the exposure process.

It is particularly preferred if the optical elements comprise grazing-incidence mirrors with incidence angles $\leq 15^\circ$. In order to minimize the light losses associated with any reflection, it is provided advantageously, if the number of field mirrors is kept small. Particularly preferred are forms of

20 embodiment with two field mirrors at most.

A numerical example will be given below, from which the values typical for EUV lithography can be found.

If one requires an aperture in the wafer plane $NA_{\text{wafer}} = 0.1-0.15$, then this indicates in the case of 4:1 systems an aperture in the reticle plane of

$NA_{\text{reticle}} = 0.025-0.375$. If the illumination system will illuminate this aperture up to a filling degree of $\sigma = 0.6$ in a homogeneous manner, independent of the field, then the EUV source must make available the following 2-dim Etendu or Lagrange optical invariant (light conductance (LC)):

5 $LC_{\text{ill.}} = \sigma LC_{\text{obj}} = 0.236 \text{ mm}^2.$

The Etendu or Lagrange optical invariant LC is generally defined as follows:

$$LC = x \bullet y \bullet NA^2 = A \bullet NA^2.$$

In order to produce this Etendu for light sources, particularly EUV sources, the latter must be appropriately adapted.

10 In the case of a too large Etendu of the source, the Etendu is reduced to the required dimension at a suitable place by vignetting. In the case of the Etendu of the source that is too small, the Etendu can be effectively increased. The use of scattering disks or a partially filled pupil is possible, as it is proposed by segmenting according to the invention.

15 A laser-plasma source can be provided in a first form of embodiment as the light source for the EUV illumination system according to the invention.

The laser plasma source has the following parameters:

- diameter of $50 \mu\text{m}-200 \mu\text{m}$
- range of angle of radiation: 4π

20 Since the radiation of a laser-plasma source is spherical, in order to take up the radiated light power, advantageously an ellipsoid mirror is used, which remodels the light of the spherical source into a convergent pencil beam.

In expanded laser-plasma sources, for example with a diameter of 200 μm , in order to avoid blurrings and for correct superimposition of the beam pencils of the field honeycombs, it is advantageous to provide a second mirror with raster elements. In the case of a point light source, for example, with a diameter of 50 μm , the blurrings are so small that such a measure can be dispensed with.

Another light source for the illumination system according to the invention is a pinch-plasma source.

A pinch-plasma source can be described as a surface radiator ($\varnothing = 1.00 \text{ mm}$), which irradiates in the solid angle element $\Omega = 0.3 \text{ sr}$. For the correct superimposition of the individual honeycomb images, as in the case of expanded laser-plasma sources, a honeycomb plate is necessary at the position of the secondary light source. A system according to the invention with a pinch-plasma source preferably comprises at least the following elements: a collector mirror, a plane facet mirror or first honeycomb condenser for producing the secondary light sources and for field shaping and a pupil facet mirror or second honeycomb condenser for the correct field overlay as well as subsequent optical elements, for example, two field mirrors. The honeycombs of the first honeycomb condenser are shaped in a planar manner in a first form of embodiment and tilted individually, while, on the other hand, the honeycombs of the second honeycomb condenser are curved spherically and are regularly arranged on the mirror without tilting. In order to avoid vignetting, the entire system is advantageously arranged in a zig-zag beam path.

In order to be able to keep to a short structural length, particularly in systems with laser-plasma sources, a tele-system is provided in a special configuration of the invention. This tele-system can be coupled with the honeycomb condenser, so that no other mirrors are necessary. The tele-

5 system has the further advantage that secondary light sources are arranged packed densely on the second honeycomb plate.

The tele-effect can be produced, for example, in such a way that the honeycombs are introduced onto a curved carrier surface, or that a prismatic component is produced for each honeycomb, which is produced in lens

10 systems, for example, by prisms pre-assigned to the honeycombs, or in mirror systems by tilting the honeycombs.

Of course, in addition to the special EUV light sources described, for example above, such as laser-plasma, plasma or pinch-plasma sources, also still other EUV light sources are conceivable without deviating from the

15 invention.

Particularly preferred additional EUV light sources are synchrotron radiation sources. Synchrotron radiation is emitted if relativistic electrons are deflected in a magnetic field. The synchrotron radiation is emitted tangentially to the electron path.

20 In the case of synchrotron radiation sources, currently one distinguishes three types of sources:

- Bending magnets
- Wigglers
- Undulators

In the case of bending magnet sources, the electrons are deflected by a bending magnet and photon radiation is emitted.

Wiggler sources comprise a so-called wiggler for the deflection of the electron or of an electron beam, and this wiggler comprises a multiple number of alternating poled pairs of magnets arranged in a series. If an electron passes through a wiggler, then the electron is subjected to a periodic, vertical magnetic field; the electron oscillates correspondingly in the horizontal plane. Wigglers are further characterized by the fact that no coherency effects occur. The synchrotron radiation produced by means of a wiggler is similar to that of a bending magnet and radiates in a horizontal steradian. In contrast to the bending magnet, it has a flow reinforced by the number of poles of the wiggler.

The transition from wiggler source to undulator source is indistinct.

In the case of undulator sources, the electrons in the undulator are subjected to a magnetic field with shorter periods and smaller magnetic field of the deflection pole than in the case of the wiggler, so that interference effects of synchrotron radiation occur. Due to the interference effects, the synchrotron radiation has a discontinuous spectrum and radiates both horizontally and vertically in a small steradian element; i.e., the radiation is strongly directed.

All of the above-described synchrotron EUV radiation sources with suitable dimensioning make available EUV radiation, for example, from 13 or 11 nm with sufficient power for EUV lithography.

Concerning synchrotron radiation, reference is made to Ernst Eckhart Koch, "Handbook of Synchrotron Radiation", 1983, Elsevier Science, New York, whereby the disclosure content of this publication is included to its full extent in the present application.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be described below on the basis of drawings.

Here:

Fig. 1: Principle diagram of the beam path of a system with two
10 honeycomb plates;

Fig. 2a, 2b: Field and pupil imaging for the central pair of
honeycombs;

Fig. 3: Course of the light beam for a rectangular field honeycomb in
combination with a rectangular pupil honeycomb;

15 Fig. 4: Course according to Fig. 3 with field lens introduced in the
beam course;

Fig. 5: Course according to Fig. 3 with two field lenses introduced in
the beam course;

Fig. 6: System with field and pupil honeycombs;

20 Figs. 7-14: Different arrangements of field honeycombs on a field
honeycomb plate;

Figs. 15-17: Raster of secondary light sources in the entrance pupil of
the objective;

Figs. 18-20: Relationship between illuminated surfaces of pupil honeycomb plate and field honeycomb plate as well as structural length and aperture in the reticle plane;

5 Figs. 21-22: Illumination system with a collector unit, a diverging as well as a collecting mirror;

Figs. 23-24: Beam course in a system with collector unit, diverging and collecting mirrors;

Fig. 25-26: Illumination of the reticle of a system according to Figs. 23-24;

10 Fig. 27-28: Illumination of the reticle with a rectangular field of a system according to Figs. 23-24 without pupil honeycombs;

Fig. 29: Comparison of the intensity course of a system according to Figs. 23-24 with and without pupil honeycomb plate;

15 Fig. 30: Integral scan energy in the reticle plane of a system according to Figs. 23-24 with pupil honeycomb plate;

Fig. 31: Pupil illumination of the projection objective of a system according to Figs. 23-24 with pupil honeycomb plate;

Fig. 32: Total energy of the partial pupils of a system according to Figs. 23-24 along the Y-axis;

20 Figs. 33-39: System according to the invention with a laser plasma source as a light source as well as a collector unit and two mirror units, which form a tele-system;

Figs. 40-45: Course of the light beams in a system with collector unit as well as two tele-mirrors according to Figs. 33-39;

Fig. 46: Illumination of the reticle field of an arrangement according to Figs. 44-45;

Fig. 47: Integral scan energy of an arrangement according to Figs. 40-45;

5 Fig. 48: Pupil illumination of a system according to Figs. 40-45;

Figs. 48A-48C: System for a laser-plasma source with diameter ≤ 50 μm and only one honeycomb plate;

Figs. 49-52: System with a laser-plasma source, a collector and a field honeycomb plate with planar honeycombs;

10 Figs. 53-58: Beam courses in an system according to Figs. 49-52;

Fig. 59: Illumination of the reticle with an illumination arrangement according to Figs. 52-58;

Fig. 60: Integral scan energy in the reticle plane of a system according to Figs. 52-58;

15 Fig. 61: Pupil illumination of a system according to Figs. 52-58;

Fig. 62: Intensity course in the scan direction of a system according to Figs. 52-58;

Fig. 63A: Honeycomb condenser with individual honeycombs on a curved carrier surface;

20 Fig. 63B: Honeycomb condenser with tilted honeycombs on a planar carrier plate;

Fig. 64: A configuration of the invention with lenses and prisms arranged in front in schematic presentation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It shall be shown theoretically on the basis of Figs. 1-20, how, with the help of the design process according to the invention and the illumination device according to the invention, a system can be provided for any desired
 5 illumination distributions A in a plane, which satisfies the requirements with reference to uniformity and telecentricity.

In Figure 1, a principle diagram of the beam path of a system with two honeycomb plates is illustrated. The light of source 1 is collected by means of a collector lens 3 and converted into a parallel or convergent pencil beam.
 10 The field honeycombs 5 of the first honeycomb plate 7 decompose the light pencil and produce secondary light sources at the site of the pupil honeycombs 9. The field lens 12 forms these secondary sources in the exit pupil of the illumination system or the entrance pupil of the subsequent objective. Such an arrangement is characterized by an interlinked beam path
 15 of field and pupil planes from the source up to the entrance pupil of the objective. For this, the designation "Köhler illumination" is also often selected.

The illumination system according to Fig. 1 is considered segmentally below. Since the intersection of the light and aperture distribution is in the
 20 plane of the field honeycombs, the system can be described independent of source type and collector mirror.

The field and pupil imaging is illustrated for the central pair of honeycombs 20, 22 in Figs. 2A and 2B. The field honeycomb 20 is imaged on the reticle 14 or the mask to be imaged by means of the pupil honeycomb

22 and the field lens 12. The geometric extension of the field honeycomb 20 determines the shape of the illuminated field in the reticle plane 14. The image scale is approximately given by the ratio of the distances from pupil honeycomb 22 to reticle 14 and field honeycomb 20 to pupil honeycomb 22.

- 5 The optical effect of the field honeycomb 20 is designed such that an image of light source 1, a secondary light source, is formed at the site, i.e., the position, of pupil honeycomb 22. If the extension of the light source is small, for example, approximately punctiform, then all of the light beams run through the optical axis of the pupil honeycomb 22. In such a case, an illumination
10 device can be produced, in which the pupil honeycomb is dispensed with.

As is shown in Fig. 2B, the task of field lens 12 consists of imaging the secondary light sources in the entrance pupil 26 of objective 24. If a field lens is introduced into the beam path, then the field imaging is influenced in such a way that it forms the annular field by control of the distortion. The
15 imaging scale of the field honeycomb image is thus not changed.

A special geometric form of a field honeycomb and a pupil honeycomb of the course of the light beams is shown in Figure 3.

- In the form of embodiment represented in Figure 3, the shape of field honeycomb 20 is selected as a rectangle. Thus, the aspect ratio of the field
20 honeycomb 20 corresponds to the ratio of the arc length to the annular width of the required annular field in the reticle plane. The annular field is formed by the field lens, as shown in Fig. 4. Without the field lens, as shown in Fig. 3, a rectangular field is formed in the reticle plane.

As shown in Fig. 4, a grazing-incidence field mirror 32 is used for the shaping of annular field 30. Under the secondary condition that the beam reflected by the reticle must no longer run back into the illumination system, one or two field mirrors 32 are required, each time depending on the position of the entrance pupil of the objective.

If the principal rays run divergently into the objective that is not shown, then a field mirror 32 is sufficient, as shown in Figure 4. In the case of the convergent principal beam path, two field mirrors are required. The second field mirror must rotate the orientation of the ring. Such a configuration is shown in Figure 5.

In the case of an illumination system in the EUV wavelength region, all components must be formed reflectively.

Due to the high reflection losses at $\lambda = 10 \text{ nm} - 14 \text{ nm}$, it is advantageous that the number of reflections be kept as small as possible.

In the construction of the reflective system, the mutual vignetting of the beams must be taken into consideration. This can occur due to construction of the system in a zigzag beam path or by operating with obscurations.

The process according to the invention will be described below for the preparation of a design for an EUV illumination system with any desired illumination in a plane A, as an example.

The definitions necessary for the process of the invention are shown in Fig. 6.

First, the beam path is calculated for the central pair of honeycombs.

In a first step, the size of field honeycombs 5 of the field honeycomb plate 7 will be determined. As indicated previously, the aspect ratio (x/y) results for rectangular honeycombs from the shape of the annular field in the reticle plane. The size of the field honeycomb is determined by expansion or

5 extension A of the intensity distribution of the arbitrary light source in the plane of the field honeycombs and the number N of the field honeycombs on the honeycomb plate, which in turn is given by the number of secondary light sources. The number of secondary light sources results in turn from the uniformity of the pupil illumination as well as the intermixing.

10 The honeycomb surface $A_{\text{honeycomb}}$ of a field honeycomb can be expressed as follows with $x_{\text{honeycomb}}$, $y_{\text{honeycomb}}$:

$$A_{\text{honeycomb}} = x_{\text{honeycomb}} \cdot y_{\text{honeycomb}} = (x_{\text{field}}/y_{\text{field}}) \cdot y_{\text{honeycomb}}^2$$

whereby x_{field} , y_{field} describe the magnitude of the rectangle, which establishes the annular field. Further, the following is valid for the number N of field

15 honeycombs:

$$N = A/A_{\text{honeycomb}} = A/[y_{\text{honeycomb}}^2 \cdot (x_{\text{field}}/y_{\text{field}})].$$

From this, there results for the size of the individual field honeycomb:

$$y_{\text{honeycomb}} = \sqrt{A/[N \cdot (x_{\text{field}}/y_{\text{field}})]}$$

and

$$20 \quad x_{\text{honeycomb}} = (x_{\text{field}}/y_{\text{field}}) \cdot y_{\text{honeycomb}}$$

The honeycomb size and the size of the rectangular field establish the imaging scale $\beta_{\text{honeycomb}}$ of the honeycomb imaging and thus the ratio of the distances d_1 and d_2 .

$$\beta_{\text{honeycomb}} = x_{\text{field}}/y_{\text{field}} = d_2/d_1$$

The pregiven structural length L for the illumination system and the honeycomb imaging scale $\beta_{\text{honeycomb}}$ determine the absolute size of d_1 and d_2 and thus the position of the pupil honeycomb plate. The following is valid:

$$d_1 = L / (1 + \beta_{\text{honeycomb}})$$

5

$$d_2 = d_1 \cdot \beta_{\text{honeycomb}}$$

Then, d_1 and d_2 determine in turn the radius of the pupil honeycombs. The following is valid:

$$R_{\text{pup}} = \frac{2 \cdot d_1 \cdot d_2}{d_1 + d_2}$$

10

In order to image the pupil honeycombs in the entrance pupil of the objective and to remodel the rectangular field into an annular field, one or more field lenses, preferably of toroidal form, are introduced between the pupil honeycomb and the reticle. By introducing the field mirror, the previously given structural length is increased, since among other things, the mirror must maintain minimum distances in order to avoid vignettings.

15

The positioning of the field honeycombs depends on the intensity distribution in the plane of the field honeycombs. The number N of the field honeycombs is pregiven by the number of secondary light sources. The field honeycombs will preferably be arranged on the field honeycomb plate in such a way that they cover the illuminated surfaces without mutually vignetting.

20

In order to position the pupil honeycombs, the raster pattern of the secondary light sources in the entrance pupil of the objective will be given in advance. The secondary light sources are imaged by the field lens counter to the direction of light. The diaphragm plane of this imaging is found in the

reticle plane. The images of the secondary light sources give the (x, y, z) positions of the pupil honeycombs. The tilt and rotational angles remain as degrees of freedom for producing the light path between the field and pupil honeycombs.

5 If a pupil honeycomb is assigned to each field honeycomb in one configuration of the invention, then the light path will be produced by tilting and rotating from field and pupil honeycombs. Thereby beam pencils are deviated in such a way that the center beams all intersect the optical axis in the reticle plane.

10 The assignment of field and pupil honeycombs is freely made. One possibility for arrangement would be to assign spatially adjacent honeycombs to each other each time. Thereby, the deflecting angles become minimal. Another possibility consists of equilibrating the intensity distribution in the pupil plane. This is made, for example, if the intensity distribution has a
15 distribution in the plane of the field honeycombs. If the field and pupil honeycombs have similar positions, the distribution is transferred to the pupil illumination.

The intensity can be equalized by intermixing of the assignment.

Advantageously, the individual components of field honeycomb plate,
20 pupil honeycomb plate and field mirror of the illumination system are arranged in the beam path such that a beam path free of vignetting is possible. If such an arrangement has effects on the imaging, then the individual light channels and the field lenses must be post-optimized.

With the design process described above, illumination systems for EUV lithography are obtained for any desired illumination A with two normal-incidence and one to two grazing-incidence reflections, and these systems have the following properties:

- 5 -- An homogeneous illumination, for example, of an annular field
- An homogeneous and field-independent pupil illumination
- The combining of the exit pupil of the illumination system and the entrance pupil of the objective
- The adjustment of a pregiven structural length
- 10 -- The uptake of the maximum possible optical conductance or optical flux value.

Arrangements of field honeycombs and pupil honeycombs will be described below for one form of embodiment of the invention with field and pupil honeycomb plates.

- 15 First, different arrangements of the field honeycombs on the field honeycomb plate will be considered. The intensity distribution can be selected as desired.

The introduced examples are limited to simple geometric forms, such as circle, rectangle, or the coupling of several circles or rectangles.

- 20 The intensity distribution will be homogeneous within the illuminated region or have a slowly varying course. The aperture distribution will be independent of the field.

In the case of circular illumination A of field honeycomb plate 100, field honeycombs 102 may be arranged, for example, in columns and rows, as

shown in Figure 7. As an alternative to this, the space points of the honeycombs can be distributed uniformly by shifting the rows over the surface, as shown in Fig. 8. The latter arrangement is better adapted to a uniform distribution of the secondary light sources.

5 A rectangular illumination A is shown in Figure 9. A shift of the rows, as shown in Figure 10, leads to a more uniform distribution of the secondary light sources. However, these are arranged within a rectangle corresponding to the expansion of the field honeycomb plate. In the case of rectangular illumination, it is necessary, in order to produce the light path between the field and pupil honeycombs, to tilt the field honeycombs, so that the beam pencils impinge on the pupil honeycombs, which are arranged, for example, inside a circle, and, which also must be tilted.

10 If illumination A of field honeycomb plate 100 comprises several circles, A1, A2, A3, A4, for example by coupling several sources, then in the case of uniform honeycomb size, intermixing is insufficient with an arrangement of the honeycombs in rows and columns according to Figure 11. A more uniform illumination is obtained by shifting the honeycomb rows, as shown in Figure 12.

20 Figures 13 and 14 show the distribution of field honeycombs 102 in the case of combined illumination from the individual rectangles A1, A2, A3, A4.

Now, for example, arrangements of the pupil honeycombs on the pupil honeycomb plate will be described.

In the arrangement of pupil honeycombs, two points of view are to be considered:

1. For minimizing the tilt angle of field and pupil honeycombs for producing the light path, it is advantageous to maintain the arrangement of field honeycombs. This is particularly advantageous with an approximately circular illumination of the field honeycomb plate.

2. For homogeneous filling of the pupil, the secondary light sources will be distributed uniformly in the entrance pupil of the objective. This can be achieved by providing a uniform raster pattern of secondary light sources in the entrance pupil of the objective. These are imaged counter to the direction of light with the field lens in the plane of the pupil honeycombs and determine in this way the ideal site of the pupil honeycombs.

If the field lens is free of distortion, then the distribution of the pupil honeycombs corresponds to the distribution of the secondary light sources. However, since the field lens forms the annular field, distortion is purposely introduced. This does not involve rotation-symmetric hour-glass or barrel-shaped distortion, but involves the bending of horizontal lines into arcs. In the ideal case, the y distance of the arcs remains constant. Real grazing-incidence field mirrors, however, also show an additional distortion in the y -direction.

A raster of secondary light sources in the entrance pupil of the objective, which is also the exit pupil of the illumination system, is shown in Figure 15, as it had been produced for distortion-free imaging. The arrangement of the secondary light sources corresponds precisely to the pre-given arrangement of pupil honeycombs.

If the field lenses are utilized for shaping the annular field, as in Figure 16, then the secondary light sources 112 lie on arcs 114. If the pupil honeycombs of individual rows are placed on the arcs which hold up the distortion, then one can place the secondary light sources again on a regular
 5 raster.

If the field lens also introduces distortion in the y-direction, then the pupil is distorted in the y-direction, as shown in Figure 17.

The expansion of the illuminated surface onto the field honeycomb plate is given in advance with the definition of the input illumination. The
 10 illumination of the pupil honeycomb plate is determined by the structural length and the aperture in the reticle plane.

As described extensively above, the two surfaces must be fine-tuned to one another by rotating and tilting the field and pupil honeycombs.

For illustration, the problems with refractory superstructures will be
 15 explained. The examples, however, can be transferred directly to reflective systems. Various cases can be distinguished for a circular illumination of field honeycomb plates, as presented below.

If a collecting effect is introduced by tilting the field honeycombs, and a diverging effect is introduced by tilting the pupil honeycombs, then the pencil
 20 cross section can be reduced. The tilt angles of the individual honeycombs are determined by means of the mid rays for each pair of honeycombs. The system acts like a tele-system for the mid rays, as shown in Figure 18.

How far the field honeycombs must be tilted, depends on the convergence of the impinging beam pencil. If the convergence is adapted to

the reduction of the pencil cross section, the field honeycombs can be introduced onto a planar substrate without a tilt angle.

A special case results, if the convergence between the field and the pupil honeycomb plate corresponds to the aperture at the reticle, as shown in

5 Figure 19.

No divergng effect must be introduced by the pupil honeycombs, so they can be utilized without surface tilt. If the light source also has a very small light conductance, the pupil honeycomb can be completely dispensed with.

10 A magnification of the pencil cross section is possible, if diverging action is introduced by tilting of the field honeycombs, and collecting effect is introduced by tilting the pupil honeycombs. The system operates like a retro-focus system for the mid rays, as shown in Figure 20.

15 If the divergence of the impinging radiation corresponds to the pencil enlargement between field and pupil honeycombs, then the field honeycombs can be used without surface tilt.

Instead of the round form that has been described, rectangular or other forms of illumination A of the field honeycomb plate are possible.

20 The following drawings describe one form of embodiment of the invention, in which a pinch-plasma source is used as the light source of the EUV illumination system.

The principal construction without field lens of such a form of embodiment is shown in Figure 21; Figure 22 shows the abbreviations necessary for the system derivation, whereby for better representation, the

system was plotted linearly and mirrors were indicated as lenses. An illumination system with pinch-plasma source 200, as shown in Figure 21, comprises a light source 200, a collector mirror 202, which collects the light and reflects it in the field honeycomb plate 204. By reflection at the field honeycombs, the light is introduced into the respective pupil honeycombs of pupil honeycomb plate 206 and from there to reticle 208. The pinch-plasma source is an expanded light source (approximately 1 mm) with a directional radiation in a relatively small steradian region of approximately $\Omega = 0.3$ sr. Based on the expansion, a pupil honeycomb condenser 206 is recommended for illumination with a pinch-plasma source.

The following dimensional specifications are used, for example, for an illumination system for EUV lithography:

– Annular field: $R = 100$ mm, segment - 60° , field height ± 3.0 mm, which corresponds to a rectangular field of 105 mm x 6 mm

– Aperture at the reticle: $NA_{ret} = 0.025$

– Aperture at the source: $NA_{source} = 0.3053$

– Structural length $L = 1400.0$ mm

– Number of honeycombs, which find place in an x-row: 4

– $d_1 = 330.0$ mm

If the following coupling of the individual quantities is now considered:

$$NA_{Ret} = \frac{DU_{BL} / 2}{L}$$

$$\Rightarrow DU_{BL} = 2 \cdot L \cdot NA_{Ret}$$

$$\frac{DU_{BL}}{X_{Wabe}} = 4.0$$

$$\Rightarrow X_{Wabe} = \frac{DU_{BL}}{4.0}$$

$$\beta_{Wabe} = \frac{x_{Feld}}{x_{Wabe}} = \frac{d_4}{d_3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta_{Wabe} = \frac{x_{Feld}}{x_{Wabe}}$$

$$\Rightarrow d_4 = d_3 \cdot \beta_{Wabe}$$

$$L = d_3 + d_4$$

$$\Rightarrow d_3 = \frac{L}{1 + \beta_{Wabe}}$$

$$NA' = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{d_3}$$

$$\Rightarrow NA' = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{d_3}$$

$$\tan(\theta) = -\frac{(1-Ex) \cdot \sin(\theta')}{2\sqrt{Ex} - (1-Ex) \cdot \cos(\theta')}$$

$$\Rightarrow Ex = f(NA_{QU}, NA')$$

$$Ex = \left(\frac{sk - s1}{sk + s1} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{d_2 - d_1}{d_2 + d_1} \right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow d_2 = d_1 \cdot \frac{1 + \sqrt{Ex}}{1 - \sqrt{Ex}}$$

$$Ex = 1 - \frac{R_{Kol}}{a}$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{Kol} = \frac{d_1 + d_2}{2} \cdot (1 - Ex)$$

$$\frac{2}{R_{Pup}} = \frac{1}{d_3} + \frac{1}{d_4}$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{Pup} = \frac{2 \cdot d_3 \cdot d_4}{d_3 + d_4}$$

Wabe = honeycomb, Feld = field, Kol = collector; DU_{BL} = diaphragm diameter

the system can be completely derived from the pregiven quantities.

20 If one utilizes the allowances for annular field, aperture at the reticle, etc. in the above formulas, then the following system parameters result:

$$DU_{BL} = 2 \cdot L \cdot NA_{Ret} = 2 \cdot 1400 \text{ mm} \cdot 0.025 = 70.0 \text{ mm}$$

$$x_{Wabe} = \frac{DU_{BL}}{4.0} = \frac{70.0 \text{ mm}}{4.0} = 17.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$\beta_{Wabe} = \frac{X_{Feld}}{X_{Wabe}} = \frac{105.0 \text{ mm}}{17.5 \text{ mm}} = 6.0$$

$$d_3 = \frac{L}{1 + \beta_{Wabe}} = \frac{1400.0 \text{ mm}}{1 + 6.0} = 200.0 \text{ mm}$$

5

$$d_4 = d_3 \cdot \beta_{Wabe} = 200.0 \text{ mm} \cdot 6.0 = 1200.0 \text{ mm}$$

$$NA' = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{d_3} = \frac{70.0 \text{ mm}/2}{200.0 \text{ mm}} = 0.175$$

10

$$Ex = f(NA_{QU}, NA') = 0.078$$

$$d_2 = d_1 \cdot \frac{1 + \sqrt{Ex}}{1 - \sqrt{Ex}} = 330.0 \text{ mm} \cdot \frac{1 + \sqrt{0.078}}{1 - \sqrt{0.078}} = 585.757 \text{ mm}$$

$$R_{Kol} = \frac{d_1 + d_2}{2} \cdot (1 - Ex) = \frac{330.0 \text{ mm} + 585.757 \text{ mm}}{2} \cdot (1 - 0.078) = 422.164 \text{ mm}$$

15

$$R_{Pup} = \frac{2 \cdot d_3 \cdot d_4}{d_3 + d_4} = \frac{2 \cdot 200 \cdot 1200}{200 + 1200} = 342.857 \text{ mm}$$

Wabe = honeycomb, Feld = field, Kol = collector, DU_{BL} = diaphragm diameter,

QU = source

20

The total system with the previously indicated dimensions is shown in Figure 23 up to the reticle plane in the yz section. The mid and the two edge beams are depicted for the central field honeycomb (0, 0) and the two

outermost field honeycombs each time. A secondary light source is produced in the pupil plane by each honeycomb.

The total system is shown in Figure 24 with an x-z fan of beams, which impinge on the central honeycomb.

5 Figures 25 and 26 show the illumination of the reticle with the rectangular field ($-52.5 \text{ mm} < x < +52.5 \text{ mm}$; $-3.0 \text{ mm} < x < +3.0 \text{ mm}$) according to Figures 25 or 26 in contour lines and 3D representation. The individual partial images are optimally superimposed in the reticle plane also in the case of the expanded secondary light sources, which are produced by
10 the pinch-plasma source, since a pupil honeycomb plate is used.

In comparison to this, the illumination of the reticle without pupil honeycomb plate is shown in contour lines and 3D representation in Figures 27 and 28. The partial images of the field honeycombs are not sharply imaged due to the finite aperture at the field honeycomb plate.

15 Figure 29 shows an intensity segment parallel to the y-axis for $x = 0.0$ with and without pupil honeycomb plate. Whereas an ideal rectangular profile is formed with pupil facets, the profile decomposes without the pupil facets.

20 Figure 30 shows the integral scan energy decisive for the lithography process, i.e., the integration of intensity along the scan path. The absolutely homogeneous integral scan energy can be clearly recognized.

In Figure 31, the pupil illumination of the exit pupil is shown in the center of the field. Corresponding to the honeycomb distribution, circular

intensity peaks are produced in the pupil illumination. The maximum aperture amounts to $NA_{\text{ret}} = 0.025$.

In Figure 32, the total energy of the partial pupils is shown along the y-axis. The intensity distribution in the pupil has a y-tilt due to the bent beam path. The total energy of the partial pupils, which lie on the y-axis is plotted. The total energy of the individual partial pupils can be adjusted via the reflectivity of the individual facets or honeycombs, so that the energy of the partial pupils can at least be controlled in a rotational symmetric manner. Another possibility for achieving this consists in designing the reflectivity of the collector mirror independent of site.

The forms of embodiment of the invention, which use different light sources, for example, are described below.

In Figs. 33-39, another form of embodiment of the invention is explained in detail relative to a laser-plasma source as the light source. If the field honeycomb plate is shaped as a plane, then the aperture in the reticle plane ($NA_{\text{theoretical}} = 0.025$) is given in advance by the ellipsoid or collector mirror. Since the distance from the light source to the ellipsoid or collector mirror should amount to at least 100 mm in order to avoid contaminations, a rigid relationship between structural length and collection efficiency results, as recorded in the following table:

Table 1

Structural length L	Collection angle θ	Collection efficiency π ($0^\circ - 90^\circ$)
1000 mm	14.3°	2%-12%
2000 mm	28.1°	6%-24%
3000 mm	41.1°	12%-35%
4000 mm	53.1°	20%-45%
5000 mm	90.0°	50%-71%

As can be seen from this, the collection efficiency for justifiable structural lengths of 3000 mm is only 35%.

In order to achieve high collection efficiencies for justifiable structural lengths, in the particularly advantageous form of embodiment of the invention according to Figs. 33-39, the illumination device is formed as a tele-system.

In the represented form of embodiment, a laser-plasma source is used as the light source, whereby the field honeycomb plate is found in the convergent beam path of a collector mirror, which images the light source on the reticle.

In the case of the example of embodiment considered below, the shape of the honeycombs of the field honeycomb plate corresponds to the shape of the field, whereby, in order to determine the honeycomb size, the field arc of the annular field is drawn up into a rectangle.

In the listed examples, the following results for the rectangular field

$$x = 2\pi r \cdot 60^\circ / 360^\circ = 104.7 \text{ mm} \approx 105 \text{ mm}$$

$$y = 6 \text{ mm}$$

The following is selected as the honeycomb size:

$$x = 17.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$y = 1 \text{ mm}.$$

In principle, the honeycomb size can be selected freely. The following is valid: the more the honeycombs, the better, and also of course: the more the honeycombs, the smaller the individual honeycomb. The smaller the

honeycombs are in comparison to the field, the larger the imaging scale must be between the first honeycomb and the field.

If the field honeycombs have a very high aspect ratio, it is advantageous if the field honeycomb rows are arranged offset from one another. Due to the off-set honeycomb rows, there is a uniform arrangement of the secondary light sources on the pupil honeycomb plate. In the case of an aspect ratio of, e.g.: 1:16, it is favorable to offset the honeycomb rows each time by $\frac{1}{4}$ of the honeycomb length.

Secondary light sources, which are arranged on the field honeycomb plate corresponding to the distribution of the field honeycombs are produced on the pupil honeycomb plate. The pupil honeycomb plate is illuminated with small intensity peaks for a point light source. In order to reduce the structural length of the illumination system, the illumination system is formed as a telescopic system (tele-system). One form of embodiment for forming such a telescopic system consists of arranging the honeycombs of the field honeycomb plate on a collecting surface, and of arranging the honeycombs of the pupil honeycomb plate on a diverging surface. In this way, the surface normal lines of the honeycomb centers are adapted to the surface normal lines of the carrier surface. As an alternative to this, one can superimpose prismatic components for the honeycombs on a planar plate. This would correspond to a Fresnel lens as a carrier surface.

The above-described tele-honeycomb condenser thus represents a superimposition of the classical tele-system and the honeycomb condenser. The compression of the field honeycomb plate to the pupil honeycomb plates

is possible until the secondary light sources overlap. For a laser plasma source with a small Etendu and source diameter of 0.05 mm, the surface field honeycombs plate and pupil honeycombs plate can be compressed in a large region.

5 In Figures 33 to 36, different arrangements are shown schematically, from which the drastic reduction in structural length, which can be achieved with a tele-system, becomes apparent.

Fig. 33 shows an arrangement exclusively with collector mirror 300 and laser-plasma light source 302.

10 With a planar arrangement of collector mirror, field honeycomb plate 304 and pupil honeycomb plate 306, as shown in Fig. 34, the structural length can be shortened only by the zigzag light path. Since the optical conductance of a point source is approximately zero, the field honeycomb plate 304, is, in fact, fully illuminated, but the pupil honeycomb plate 306 is
15 illuminated only with individual peaks.

However, now if the honeycombs are introduced onto curved carrier surfaces, i.e., the system is configured as a tele-system with a collecting mirror and a diverging mirror, as shown in Fig. 35, then the structural length can be shortened and the illumination can be compressed on the pupil
20 honeycomb plate.

In the case of the design according to Fig. 36, the individual honeycombs are arranged tilted on a planar carrier surface.

The honeycombs of the pupil honeycomb plate have the task of correctly superimposing the fields on the reticle in the case of expanded

secondary light sources. However, if a sufficiently good point light source is present, then the second honeycomb plate is not necessary. The field honeycombs can then be introduced either onto the collecting or onto the diverging tele-mirror. If the field honeycombs are found on the collecting tele-

5 mirror, they can be designed as either concave or planar. The field honeycombs on the diverging tele-mirror can be designed as convex, concave or planar. Collecting honeycombs lead to a real pupil plane; diverging honeycombs lead to a virtual pupil plane.

Collector lens 300 and tele-honeycomb condenser or tele-system 310

10 produce the pregiven rectangular field illumination of 6 mm x 105 mm with correct aperture $NA = 0.025$ in the image plane of the illumination system. As in the previous examples, with the help of one or more field lenses 314 arranged between tele-honeycomb condenser 310 and reticle 312, the annular field is formed, which strikes the entrance pupil of the objective and

15 assures the homogeneity of the field illumination necessary for the exposure process.

An intersection for the design of the field lens 314 is the plane of the secondary light sources. This must be imaged by the field lens 314 in the entrance pupil of the objective. In the pupil plane of this image, which

20 corresponds to the reticle plane, the annular field must be produced.

In Fig. 37, a form of embodiment of the invention with only one field mirror 314 is shown. In the form of embodiment with one field mirror, the annular field can be produced and the entrance pupil can be impinged on. Since reticle 316, however, is impinged on only under 2.97° , there is the

danger that the light pencil will run back into the illumination system. It is provided in a particularly advantageous form of embodiment to use as field mirrors two grazing-incidence mirrors. This way, the annular field is again rotated and the illumination system will be left "behind" the field lens 314. By using two field mirrors, one also has more degrees of freedom in order to adjust telecentricity and field illumination.

The design of tele-systems will now be described on the basis of examples of embodiment, whereby the numerical data not will represent a limitation of the system according to the invention.

In the first example of embodiment of a tele-system, this comprises a collector unit, a diverging mirror and a collecting mirror as well as field lenses, whereby the honeycombs are introduced only onto the first tele-mirror. All honeycombs are identical and lie on a curved carrier surface.

The parameters used are represented in Fig. 39 and are selected as follows below:

--Annular field: $R = 100$ mm, segment = 60° , field height ± 3.0 mm.

--Position of the entrance pupil: $S_{EP} = 1927.4$ mm. This corresponds to a principal beam angle of $i_{PB} = 2.97^\circ$ for $y = 100$ mm.

--Aperture at the reticle: $NA = 0.025$.

--Aperture at the source: $NA = 0.999$.

--Distance between the source and the collector mirror: $d_1 = 100.0$ mm.

--Honeycomb size on the first tele-mirror, 1 mm x 17.5 mm.

-- $d_3 = 100$ mm.

--Compression factor $\phi_{\text{first honeycomb}} / \phi_{\text{second honeycomb}} = 4:1$.

- Tilt angle α of the grazing-incidence mirror, $\alpha = 80^\circ$.
 - Collector mirror is shaped as an ellipsoid with $R_{\text{collector}}$ and $Ex_{\text{collector}}$.
 - Carrier surfaces R_2 and R_3 : spherical.
 - Honeycomb radius $R_{\text{honeycomb}}$: spherical.
- 5 --Field mirror toric without concentric component: R_{4x} , R_{4y} , R_{5x} , R_{5y} .

Figure 40 shows an arrangement of a tele-system with collector mirrors, whereby the mirrors are unstructured, i.e., they do not comprise honeycombs. The two mirrors show a compression factor of 4:1. The shortening of the structural length due to the tele-system is obvious. With the

10 tele-system, the structural length amounts to 852.3 mm, but without the tele-system, it would amount to 8000.0 mm. In Figure 41, a fan of beams is shown in the x-z plane for the system according to Figure 40.

Figure 42 in turn represents a fan of beams in the x-z plane, whereby the mirrors of the system according to Fig. 40 are now structured and have

15 field honeycombs. Secondary light sources are formed on the second mirror of the tele-system due to the field honeycombs on the first mirror of the tele-system. In the field, the pencils are correctly overlaid, and a strip with $-52.5 \text{ mm} < x < +52.5 \text{ mm}$ is homogeneously illuminated.

In Figure 43, the total system up to the entrance pupil of the objective

20 is shown. The total system comprises: light source 302, collector mirror 300, tele-honeycomb condenser 310, field mirror 314, reticle 316 and entrance pupil of the projection objective 318. The drawn-in edge beams 320, 322 impinge on the reticle and are drawn up to the entrance pupil of the objective.

Figure 44 shows an x-z fan of beams of a configuration according to Figure 43, which passes through the central field honeycomb 323. This pencil is in fact physically not meaningful, since it would be vignettted by the second tele-mirror, but shows well the path of the light. One sees on field mirrors 314 how the orientation of the annular field is rotated through the second field mirror. The beams cannot run undisturbed into the objective (not shown) after reflection at reticle 316.

Figure 45 shows a beam pencil, which passes through the central field honeycomb 323 as in Fig. 44, runs along the optical axis and is focused in the center of the entrance pupil.

Figure 46 describes the illumination of the reticle field with the annular field produced by the configuration according to Figures 40 to 45 ($R = 100$ mm, segment = 60° , field height ± 3.0 mm).

In Figure 47, the integral scan energy decisive for the lithography process (integration of the intensity along the scan path) represents an arrangement according to Figures 40 to 46. The integral scan energy varies between 95% and 100%. The uniformity thus amounts to $\pm 2.5\%$.

In Figure 48, the pupil illumination in the field center is shown. The beam angles are referred to the centroid beam. Corresponding to the honeycomb distribution, circular intensity peaks IP result in the pupil illumination. The obscuration in the center M is caused by the second tele-mirror.

The illumination system described in Figures 31 to 48 has the advantage that the collecting angle can be increased to above 90° without anything further, since the ellipsoid can also enclose the source.

Further, the structural length can be adjusted by the tele-system. A
 5 reduction of structural length is limited due to the angular acceptance of the layers and the imaging error of the surfaces with a strong optical effect.

If an arrangement can be produced with only one field honeycomb plate for point light sources or sources with very small expansion, for example, in the case of laser-plasma sources with diameters $\leq 50 \mu\text{m}$, then
 10 the honeycombs can be introduced onto collecting mirror 380 of the tele-system or onto the diverging second tele-mirror 352. This is shown in Figs. 48A-48C.

The introduction onto the second tele-mirror 352 has several advantages: In the case of collecting honeycombs, a real pupil plane is
 15 formed in "air", which is freely accessible, as shown in Fig. 48A.

In the case of diverging honeycombs, in fact a virtual pupil plane is formed, which is not accessible, as shown in Fig. 48B. The negative focal length of the honeycombs, however, can be increased.

In order to avoid an obscuration, as shown in Fig. 48C, the mirrors of
 20 the tele-system 350, 352, can be tilted toward one another, so that the beam pencil does not disturb each other, e.g. by crossing.

A second example of embodiment for a tele-system will be described below, which comprises a planar facet honeycomb condenser. The system described below is particularly characterized by the fact that the collector unit

forms a tele-unit with a mirror. The collecting effect of the tele-system is then completely transferred onto the collector mirror. Such a configuration will spare a mirror.

Further, in the case of the planar facet honeycomb condenser, the
5 honeycombs are planar shaped.

Such a system has a high system efficiency of 27% with two normal-incidence mirrors (65%) and two grazing-incidence mirrors (80%).

Further, a large collecting efficiency can be realized, whereby the collecting steradian amounts to 2π , but which can still be broadened.

10 Based on the zigzag beam path, there are no obscurations in the pupil illumination. In addition, in the described form of embodiment, the structural length can be easily adjusted.

The collector or ellipsoid mirror collects the light radiated from the laser-plasma source and forms the source on a secondary light source. A
15 multiple number of individual planar field honeycombs are arranged in a tilted manner on a carrier plate. The field honeycombs decompose the collimated light pencil into partial bundles and superimpose these in the reticle plane. The form of the field honeycombs corresponds to the rectangular field of the field to be illuminated. Further, the illumination system has two grazing-
20 incidence toroid mirrors, which form the annular field, correctly illuminate the entrance pupil of the objective, and assure the homogeneity of the field illumination corresponding to the exposure process.

In contrast to the first example of embodiment of a tele-system with collector unit as well as two other mirrors, in the presently described form of

embodiment, the laser-plasma source alone is imaged by the ellipsoid mirror in the secondary light source. This saves one normal-incidence mirror and permits the use of planar field honeycombs. Such a savings presupposes that no pupil honeycombs are necessary, i.e., the light source is essentially punctiform.

The mode of action will be described in more detail on the basis of Figs. 49-51.

Figure 49 shows the image of the laser-plasma source 400 through ellipsoid mirror 402. A secondary light source 410 is formed. In the imaging of Figure 50, a tilted planar mirror 404 defects the light pencil and guides it to the ellipsoid mirror in front of the reticle plane 406.

In the imaging of Figure 51, tilted field honeycombs 408 are dividing the light pencil and superimpose the partial bundles in the reticle plane. In this way, a multiple number of secondary light sources 410 are produced, which are distributed uniformly over the pupils. The tilt angles of the individual field honeycombs 408 correspond, at the space-point of the field honeycombs, to the curvatures of a hyperboloid, which images the laser-plasma source in the reticle plane, together with the ellipsoid mirror. The diverging effect of the tele-unit is thus introduced by the tilt angle of the field honeycombs or facets.

In Figure 52, the abbreviations are drawn in, as they are used in the following system derivation. For better presentation, the system was drawn linearly.

The following values are used as a basis for the example of embodiment described below, without the numerical data being seen as a limitation:

--Annular field: $R = 100$ mm, segment 60° , field height ± 3.0 mm, which

5 corresponds to a rectangular field of 105 mm x 6 mm.

--Aperture at the reticle: $NA_{ret} = 0.025$.

--Aperture at the source: $NA_{source} = 0.999$.

-- $d_1 = 100.0$ mm

--Structural length $L = d_3 + d_4 = 1400$ mm.

--Number of honeycombs within an x-row of the diaphragm diameter =

4.

The dimensions are coupled together as follows:

$$NA_{Ret} = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{L} \quad \Rightarrow \quad DU_{BL} = 2 \cdot L \cdot NA_{Ret}$$

$$\frac{DU_{BL}}{x_{Wabe}} = 4.0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x_{Wabe} = \frac{DU_{BL}}{4.0}$$

$$\beta_{Wabe} = \frac{x_{Feld}}{x_{Wabe}} = \frac{d_4}{d_3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \beta_{Wabe} = \frac{x_{Feld}}{x_{Wabe}}$$

$$\Rightarrow d_4 = d_3 \cdot \beta_{Wabe}$$

$$L = d_3 + d_4 \quad \Rightarrow \quad d_3 = \frac{L}{1 + \beta_{Wabe}}$$

$$NA' = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{d_3} \quad \Rightarrow \quad NA' = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{d_3}$$

$$\tan(\theta) = -\frac{(1-Ex) \cdot \sin(\theta')}{2\sqrt{Ex} - (1-Ex) \cdot \cos(\theta')}$$

$$\Rightarrow Ex = f(NA_{QU}, NA')$$

$$5 \quad Ex = \left(\frac{sk - s1}{sk + s1} \right)^2 = \left(\frac{d_2 - d_1}{d_2 + d_1} \right)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow d_2 = d_1 \cdot \frac{1 + \sqrt{Ex}}{1 - \sqrt{Ex}}$$

$$Ex = 1 - \frac{R}{a}$$

$$\Rightarrow R = \frac{d_1 + d_2}{2} \cdot (1 - Ex)$$

10 Ret = reticle; DU_{BL} = diaphragm diameter; Wabe = honeycomb; Feld = field

The system can be completely determined with the process of the invention for the design of an illumination system with the use of planar field honeycombs and the pre-given values. If one inserts the design tolerances in

15 the above formulas, then the following system parameters result:

$$DU_{BL} = 2 \cdot L \cdot NA_{Ret} = 2 \cdot 1400 \text{ mm} \cdot 0.025 = 70.0 \text{ mm}$$

$$x_{Wabe} = \frac{DU_{BL}}{4.0} = \frac{70.0 \text{ mm}}{4.0} = 17.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$20 \quad \beta_{Wabe} = \frac{x_{Feld}}{x_{Wabe}} = \frac{105.0 \text{ mm}}{17.5 \text{ mm}} = 6.0$$

$$d_3 = \frac{L}{1 + \beta_{Wabe}} = \frac{1400.0 \text{ mm}}{1 + 6.0} = 200.0 \text{ mm}$$

$$d_4 = d_3 \cdot \beta_{Wabe} = 200.0 \text{ mm} \cdot 6.0 = 1200.0 \text{ mm}$$

$$NA' = \frac{DU_{BL}/2}{d_3} = \frac{70.0 \text{ mm}/2}{200.0 \text{ mm}} = 0.175$$

5 $Ex = f(NA_{QU}, NA') = 0.695$

$$d_2 = d_1 \cdot \frac{1 + \sqrt{Ex}}{1 - \sqrt{Ex}} = 100.0 \text{ mm} \cdot \frac{1 + \sqrt{0.695}}{1 - \sqrt{0.695}} = 1101.678 \text{ mm}$$

$$R = \frac{d_1 + d_2}{2} \cdot (1 - Ex) = \frac{100.0 \text{ mm} + 1101.678 \text{ mm}}{2} \cdot (1 - 0.695) = 183.357 \text{ mm}$$

10

Ret = reticle; DU_{BL} = diaphragm diameter; Wabe = honeycomb; Feld = field;

QU = source

15

The field lenses are constructed similar to the case of the first example of embodiment of a tele-system, i.e., two toroid mirrors are again used as field lenses.

In Figs. 53-58, the beam courses of a system are shown with the previously given parameters as an example.

20

In Figure 53, the beam course is shown for an ellipsoid mirror, which assumes aperture $NA = 0.999$ and images on a secondary light source 410.

In the form of embodiment according to Figure 54, a planar mirror 404 is arranged at the position of the field honeycomb plate, which mirrors back

the pencil. The beams are extended up to the reticle plane 406. One of the secondary light sources 410 lies within the beam pencil.

Finally, in Figure 55, the construction according to the invention is shown, in which deflecting mirror 404 is replaced by the field honeycomb plate 412. A fan of beams is depicted, which each time goes through the center of the individual field honeycombs. These beams intersect on the optical axis in the reticle plane 406.

Figure 56 finally shows the total system up to entrance pupil 414 of the objective with field lenses 416. The depicted edge beams 418, 420 strike on reticle 406 and are further calculated up to the entrance pupil of the objective.

In Figure 57, an x-z fan of beams is depicted for the system of Figure 56, and this fan strikes the central field honeycomb 422. The beams illuminate the ring on reticle 406 with the correct orientation.

In Figure 58, in addition, the entrance pupil 424 of the projection objective is represented. The depicted beam pencil runs along the optical axis (central pencil) and is thus focused in the center of the entrance pupil.

In Figure 59, the illumination of the reticle is shown with an annular field ($R = 100 \text{ mm}$, segment = 60° , field height $\pm 3.0 \text{ mm}$), which is based on an illumination arrangement according to Figs. 52-58.

The integral scan energy which is decisive for the lithographic process, i.e., the integration of the intensity along the scan path, is shown in Fig. 60. The integral scan energy varies between 100% and 105%. The uniformity or homogeneity thus amounts to $\pm 2.5\%$.

Figure 61 represents the pupil illumination of the above-described system in the field center. The beam angles are referred to the centroid beam. Corresponding to the field honeycomb distribution, circular intensity peaks are produced in the pupil illumination. The pupil is completely filled.

- 5 There are no center obscurations, since in the case of the described second form of embodiment, the mirrors are arranged in zigzag fashion.

In Fig. 62, the intensity course is shown in the scan direction with the use of two different laser-plasma sources. Whereas with only one field honeycomb plate for the 50- μm source, the desired rectangular course is obtained, the 200- μm source shows at the edges a clear blurring. This source can no longer be considered punctiform. The use of a second faceted mirror comprising pupil honeycombs, such as, for example, in the case of the pinch-plasma source, is necessary for the correct pencil superimposition in the entrance pupil of the objective.

15 In Figs. 63A + 63B two possibilities are shown for the formation of the field honeycomb plate. In Fig. 63A, the honeycombs 500 are arranged on a curved carrier surface 502. Thus the inclination of the honeycombs corresponds to the tangential inclination of the carrier surface. Such plates are described, for example, in the case of the first form of embodiment of a tele-system according to the invention with two mirrors and a separate collector mirror.

If the field honeycombs 500 are shaped in planar manner, such as, for example, in the case of the second form of embodiment that is described, in which collector unit and field honeycomb plate are combined into one tele-

system, then the individual field honeycombs are arranged under a pregiven tilt angle on the honeycomb plate 504. Depending on the distribution of the tilt angle on the plate, one obtains either collecting or diverging effects. A plate with a diverging effect is illustrated.

5 Of course, honeycomb plates with planar honeycombs can be used also in systems according to the first example of embodiment with a collector unit and two tele-mirrors. In the case of such a system, the honeycombs are then tilted onto one of the mirrors such that a diverging effect is produced and onto the other in such a way that a collecting action is adjusted.

10 Figure 64 shows a form of embodiment of the invention, which is defined as a refractive system with lenses for wavelengths, for example, of 193 nm or 157 nm. The system comprises a light source 600, a collector lens 602, as well as a field honeycomb plate 604 and a pupil honeycomb plate 606. Prisms 608 arranged in front of the field honeycombs serve for adjusting
15 the light path between the field honeycomb plate 604 and the pupil honeycomb plate 606. With the device according to the invention or the design process according to the invention, for the first time, an arrangement or a design process for illumination systems is given, which finds use particularly in EUV lithography, in which a uniform illumination of a reticle
20 field is produced with uniform imaging and filling of the entrance pupil for light sources with any desired illumination A in a predetermined surface.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Illumination system for wavelengths ≤ 193 nm, particularly for EUV lithography with

- 1.1 at least one light source (1) which has an illumination A in a predetermined surface;
- 1.2 at least one device for the production of secondary light sources;
- 1.3 at least one mirror or lens device comprising at least one mirror or one lens, which is or are organized into raster element(s);
- 1.4 one or more optical elements, which are arranged between the mirror or lens device comprising at least one mirror or one lens, which is or are organized into raster element(s), and the reticle plane (14, 316, 406), whereby the optical elements image the secondary light source in the exit pupil of the illumination system;

the illumination system is characterized in that

- 1.5 the raster elements of the one or more mirrors or lenses are shaped and arranged in such a way that the images of the raster elements by means of the optical elements are overlapping for the most part of the reticle plane (14, 316, 406),

and that the exit pupil defined by the aperture and the degree of filling is illuminated.

2. Illumination system according to claim 1, further characterized in that the optical elements comprise at least one field mirror (32, 314, 416) or at least one field lens.

3. Illumination system according to claim 2, further characterized in that at most two field mirrors (32, 314, 416) or field lenses are provided.

4. Illumination system according to claim 2 or 3, further characterized in that

the field mirrors (32, 316, 416) are arranged in striped incidence.

5. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 4, further characterized in that

the mirror device comprises a mirror or a lens with raster elements, which are formed as field honeycombs (5).

6. Illumination system according to claim 5, further characterized in that the field honeycombs (5) in their aspect ratio essentially correspond to that of the field to be illuminated in the reticle plane.

7. Illumination system according to claim 5 or 6, further characterized in that

the mirrors or the lenses with raster elements produce the secondary light sources.

8. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 7, further characterized in that

the illumination system comprises a collector mirror or collector lens(es) (300, 402), which collects or collect the light from the light source.

9. Illumination system according to claim 8, further characterized in that the collector mirror and the mirror with raster elements or the collector lens and the lens with raster elements produce the secondary light sources.

10. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 9, further characterized in that

a light source (1) is provided, which radiates radially in a steradian greater than $\pi/2$, particularly a plasma focus source.

11. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 9, further characterized in that

a light source (1) is provided, which radiates directionally in a steradian smaller than $\pi/2$, particularly a pinch-plasma source.

12. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 11, further characterized in that

the mirror device comprises two mirrors or lenses with raster elements, a first mirror or a lens with a multiple number of field honeycombs (5) and a second mirror or lens with a multiple number of pupil honeycombs (9).

13. Illumination system according to claim 12, further characterized in that the field honeycombs are arranged on the first mirror or the first lens in such a way that they do not overlap and their images cover the surface to be illuminated in the reticle plane.

14. Illumination system according to claim 12 or 13, further characterized in that

the pupil honeycombs are arranged on the second mirror or the lens in such a way that their images, which are produced by the optical elements, illuminate the exit pupil with a predetermined pattern.

15. Illumination system according to claim 14, further characterized in that by a corresponding arrangement, particularly by rotating and tilting of

field and pupil honeycombs relative to one another, a light path will be constructed between a pair of field and pupil honeycombs.

16. Illumination system according to claim 14, further characterized in that a light path is constructed between a pair of field and pupil honeycombs by orienting and selecting the deflection angle of the prismatic component of the field and pupil honeycombs.

17. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 15, further characterized in that

a zigzag beam path is produced by field and pupil planes, particularly Köhler illumination.

18. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 13, further characterized in that

the mirror or lens system comprises a telescope system.

19. Illumination system according to claim 18, further characterized in that at least one mirror or one lens comprises the raster element or elements, and at the same time is one mirror or one lens of the telescope objective.

20. Illumination system according to claim 18 or 19, further characterized in that

the telescope system comprises the collector mirror (300, 402) or the collector lens.

21. Illumination system according to claim 20, further characterized in that the telescope system additionally comprises the first mirror or the first lens with a multiple number of field honeycombs, whereby the collector

mirrors have positive refractive power and the first mirror or the first lens have negative refractive power.

22. Illumination system according to claim 18, further characterized in that the telescope system comprises the first mirror or the first lens with a multiple number of field honeycombs and the second mirror or the second lens with a multiple number of pupil honeycombs, whereby the first mirror or the first lens has positive refractive power and the second mirror or the second lens has negative refractive power.

23. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 22, further characterized in that

the distance from the light source to the field to be illuminated is smaller than 3 m, and is preferably smaller than 2 m.

24. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 23, further characterized in that

the system comprises precisely three, four or five mirrors, at least one of which has striped incidence and at least one with raster elements.

25. Illumination system according to one of claims 1 to 23, further characterized in that

the system comprises precisely four or five mirrors, at least two of which with grazing incidence and at least two with raster elements.

26. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 25, further characterized in that

the raster elements of at least one mirror are curved, particularly in a concave or convex manner.

27. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 26,
further characterized in that

the raster elements of at least one mirror are planar.

28. Illumination system according to one of claims 26 to 27, further
characterized in that

the surfaces of the raster elements of at least one mirror are arranged
on a curved surface.

29. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 27,
further characterized in that

the raster elements of at least one mirror are arranged on a basic
structure according to a type of Fresnel lens.

30. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 29,
further characterized in that

the raster elements of at least one mirror are tilted relative to the
enveloping or bearing surface.

31. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 30,
further characterized in that

the raster elements of at least one mirror are arranged in rows and
each time adjacent rows are arranged displaced relative to one another by a
fraction, preferably $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{10}$ of the length of a raster element.

32. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 31,
further characterized in that

at least one steradian component of the light radiated from the light
source of 0.5π , preferably π and greater, is transported to the field.

33. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 32,
further characterized in that

the mirror system has an axial symmetric construction with central vignetting.

34. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 32,
further characterized in that

the mirror system has an outer axial course of the light bundle that is free of vignetting.

35. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 34,
further characterized in that

the aspect ratio of the raster element of a mirror amounts to 1:1 to 1:20.

36. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 35,
further characterized in that

the field is a rectangular field or an annular segment, as is usual in scanning projection lithography.

37. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 36,
further characterized in that

at least one field mirror has a toroidal form, whereby the cross sections can also have conical and aspherical components.

38. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 37,
further characterized in that

optical elements, particularly field mirrors, are provided, which fulfill one or more of the following functions:

--imaging of the secondary light sources in the entrance pupil of the subsequent projection objective

--remodeling of the pre-given rectangular illumination by raster elements to form a field in the form of an annular segment.

--adjustment of the intensity distribution over the field.

39. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 38, further characterized in that

at least one mirror has a reflectivity being position-dependent.

40. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 39, further characterized in that

the field-side numerical aperture amounts to approximately 0.01 to 0.1, preferably approximately 0.025.

41. Illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 40, further characterized in that

an accessible diaphragm plane is present.

42. Illumination system according to claim 41, further characterized in that a masking device is provided at the diaphragm plane, with which the type of illumination, particularly the coherency factor, annular or quadrupole illumination can be adjusted.

43. Illumination system according to one of claims 1-42, further characterized in that the light source is a synchrotron radiation source.

44. Illumination system according to claim 43, further characterized in that the light source is an undulator source or a wiggler source.

45. EUV projection exposure unit for microlithography

--with an illumination system according to at least one of claims 1 to 42

--a mask on a carrier system

--a projection objective

--a light-sensitive object on a carrier system.

46. EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 45, designed as a scanning system.

47. EUV projection exposure unit according to at least one of claims 43 to 46, further characterized in that the illumination intensity at the light-sensitive object—with an unstructured mask—has position-dependent differences that are less than $\pm 5\%$, preferably less than $\pm 2\%$.

48. EUV projection exposure unit according to one of claims 43 to 47, further characterized in that

the scan energy at the light sensitive object—with an unstructured mask—has position-dependent differences of less than $\pm 5\%$, preferably less than $\pm 2\%$.

49. EUV projection exposure unit according to at least one of claims 43 to 48, further characterized in that

a vacuum window transparent to EUV is arranged in the beam path.

50. EUV projection exposure unit according to claim 49, further characterized in that

a vacuum window is arranged at a constriction of the light bundle in the illumination system.

51. Process for the design of an illumination system for wavelengths \leq 193 nm, particularly for EUV lithography, whereby the illumination system has:

- a light source with an illumination A in a predetermined surface,
- a mirror or lens device comprising at least two mirrors or lenses, which are comprising raster elements,
- optical elements, which are arranged between mirror or lens device and reticle plane,

comprising the following steps:

- 51.1 The raster elements of the first mirror or of the first lens are arranged in such a way that they cover the surface without overlapping;
- 51.2 The raster elements of the first mirror are shaped in such a way that their form corresponds to the field to be illuminated, whereby a secondary light source is assigned to each raster element;
- 51.3 The raster elements of the second mirror or lens are arranged in such a way that they sit at the position of the secondary light source.
- 51.4 The raster elements of the second mirror are shaped in such a way that their shape corresponds to that of the secondary light sources;
- 51.5 By rotating or tilting the raster elements of the first and second mirrors or by orienting and selecting the angle of deflection of

- the prismatic component of the raster elements of the first or second lens, a light path is produced between these, whereby a predetermined assignment of the raster elements of the first mirror or lens to the second mirror or lens is maintained, so that
- 51.6 the raster elements of the first mirror are imaged in the reticle plane by the raster elements of the second mirror;
- 51.7 the images of the raster elements of the first mirror are partially superimposed in the reticle plane;
- 51.8 the secondary light sources are imaged in the exit pupil by the optical elements.

52. Process for the production of microelectronic components, particularly semiconductor chips with an EUV projection exposure unit according to one of claims 43 to 50.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention concerns an illumination system for wavelengths ≤ 193 nm, particularly for EUV lithography, with at least one light source, which has an illumination A in a predetermined surface; at least one device for

5 producing secondary light sources; at least one mirror or lens device comprising at least one mirror or one lens, which is or are organized into raster elements; one or more optical elements, which are arranged between the mirror or lens device comprising at least one mirror or one lens, which is or are organized into raster elements and the reticle plane, whereby the

10 optical elements image the secondary light sources in the exit pupil of the illumination system.

The illumination system is characterized by the fact that the raster elements of the one or more mirror or lenses are shaped and arranged in such a way that the images of the raster elements cover by means of the

15 optical elements the major portion of the reticle plane and that the exit pupil defined by aperture and filling degree is illuminated.

FIG. 1

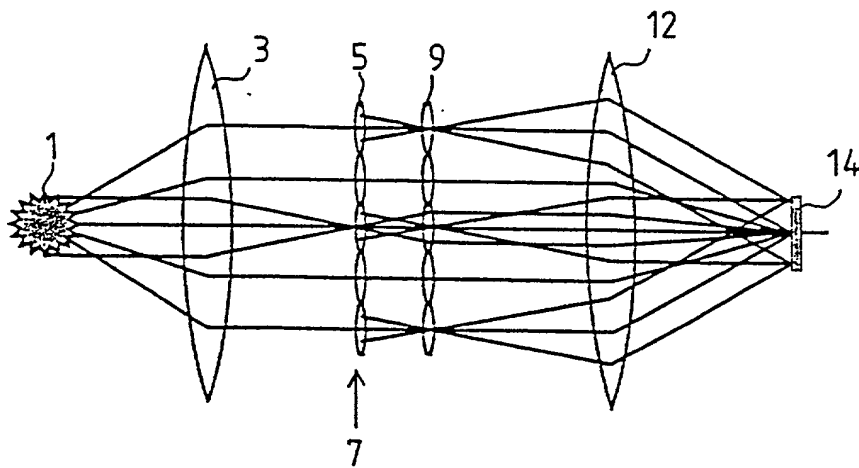


FIG. 2A

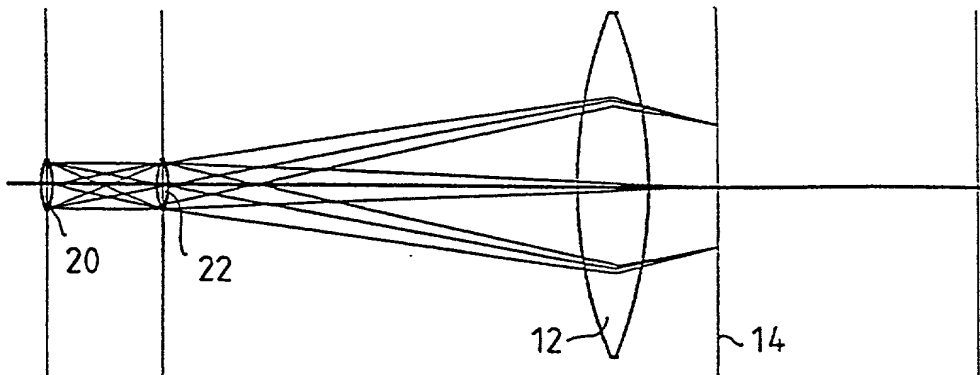


FIG. 2B

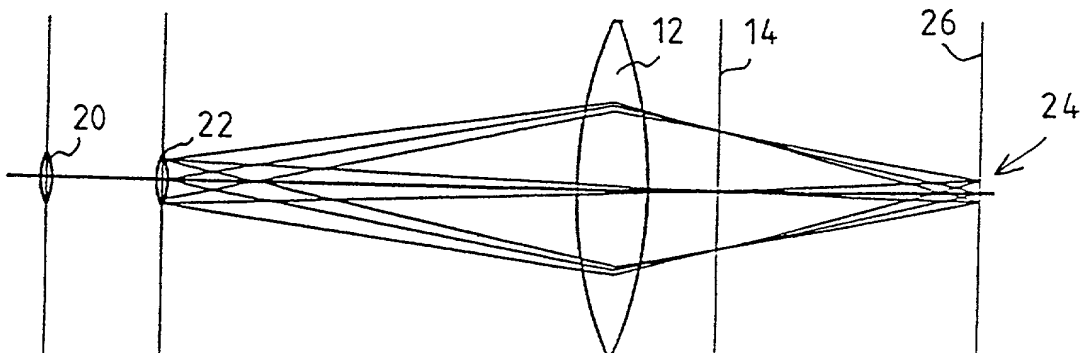


FIG. 3

Wabe = honeycomb; Feld = field

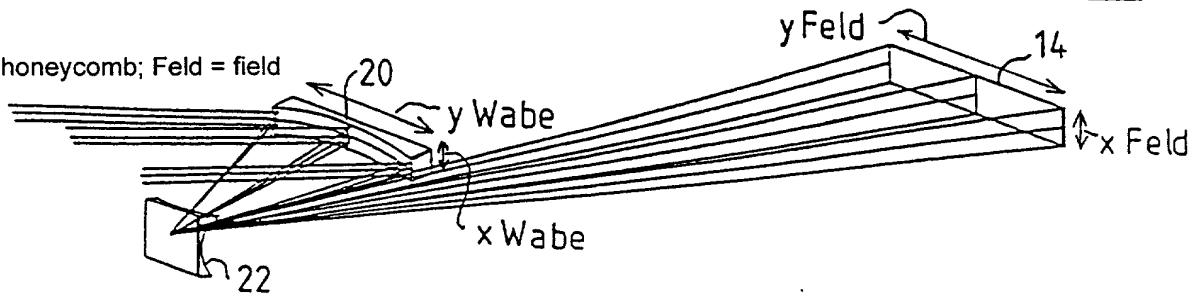


FIG. 4

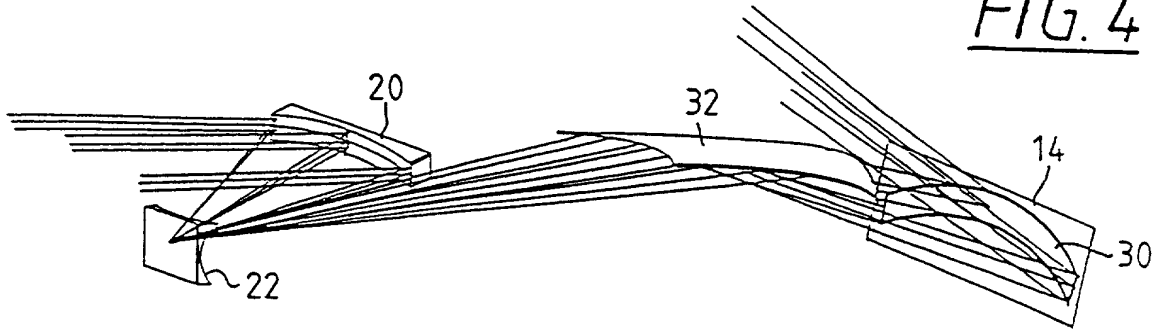


FIG. 5

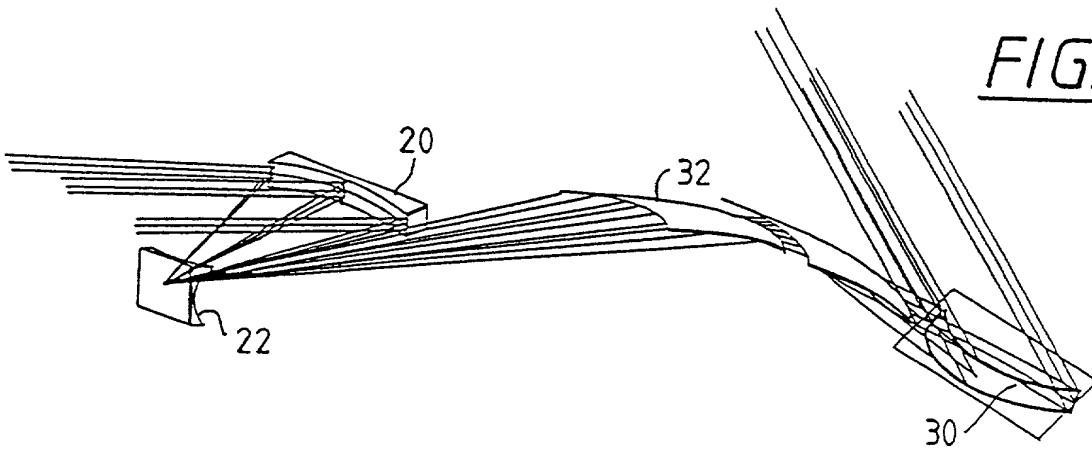
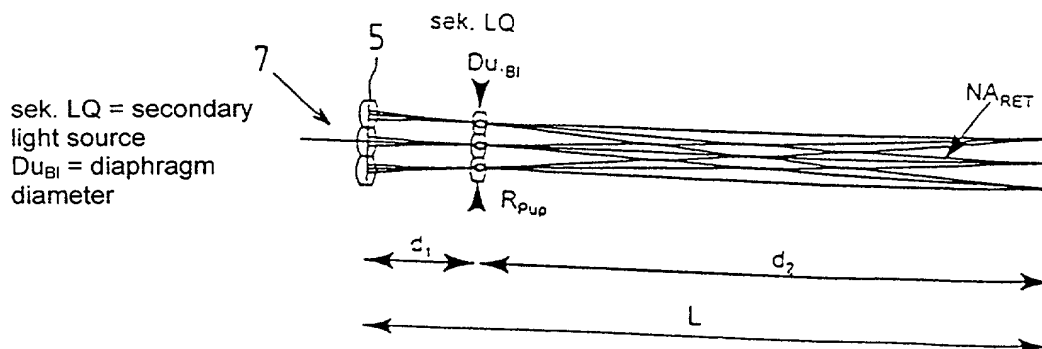


FIG. 6



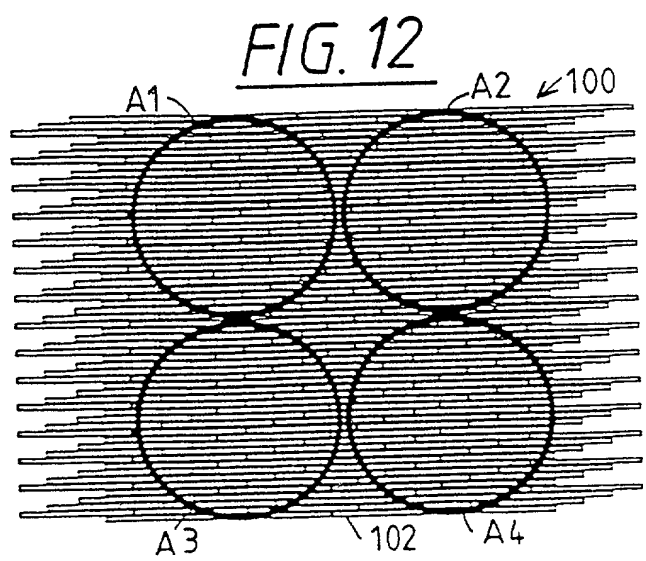
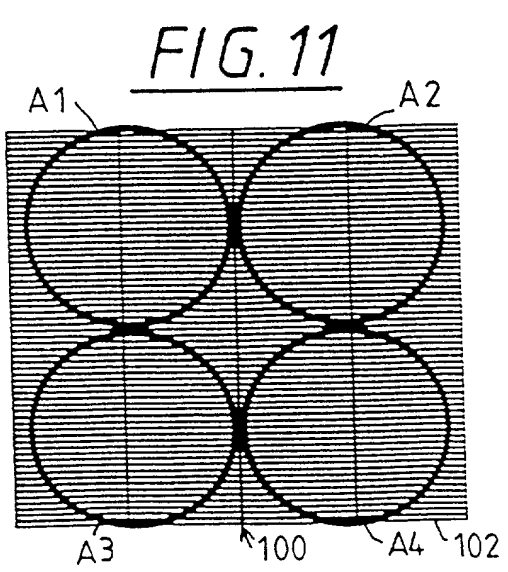
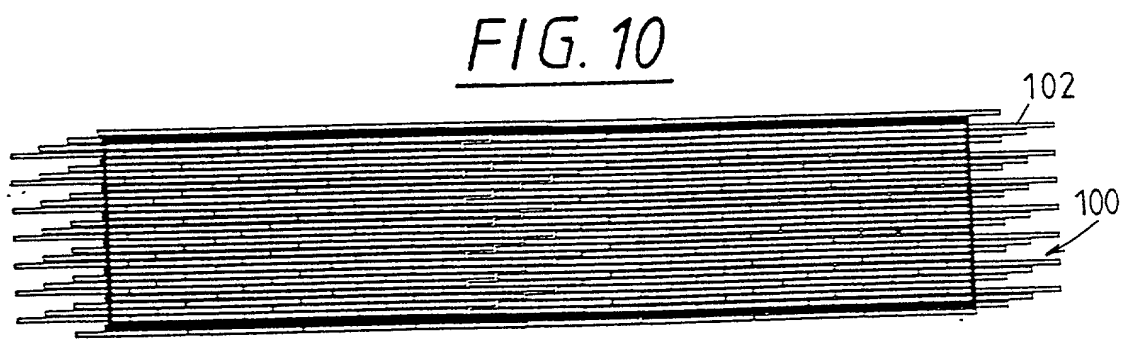
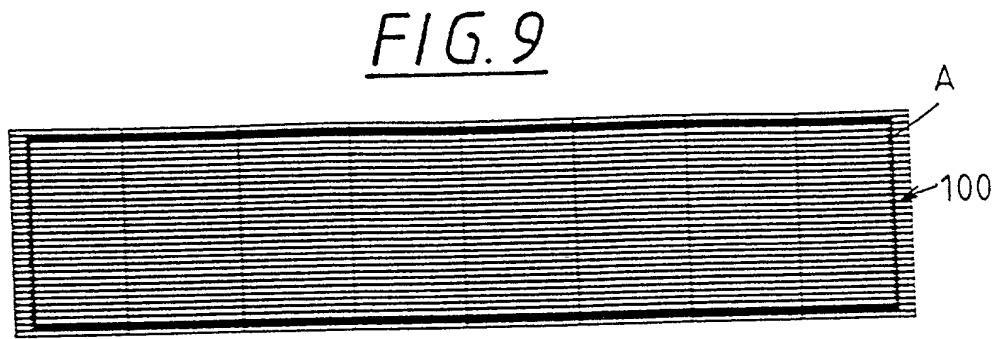
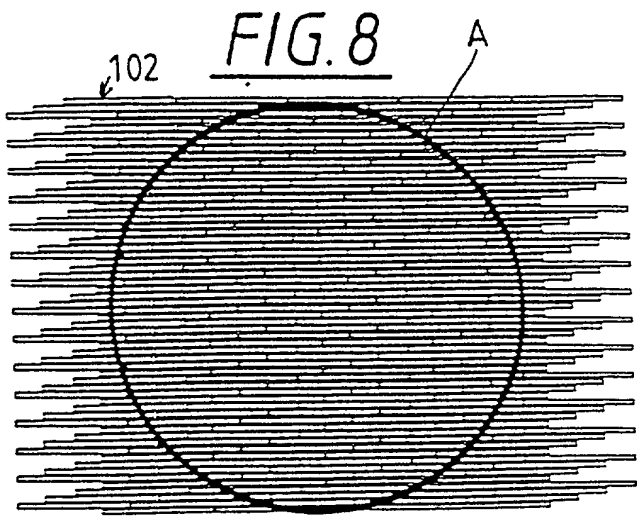
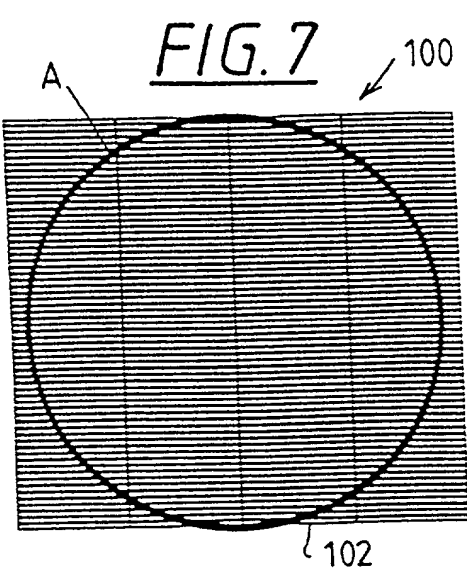


FIG. 13

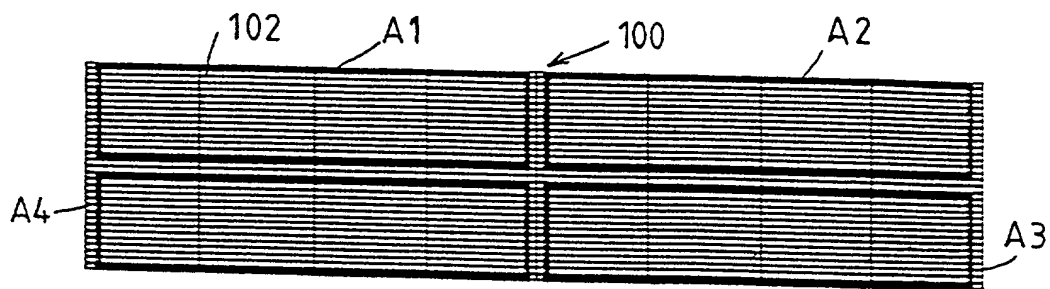


FIG. 14

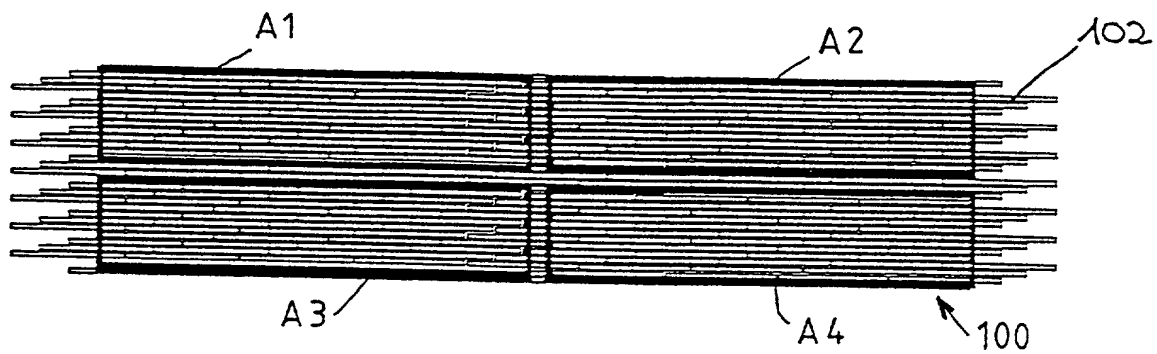


FIG. 15

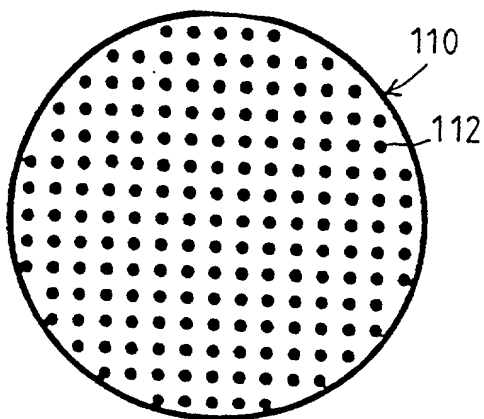
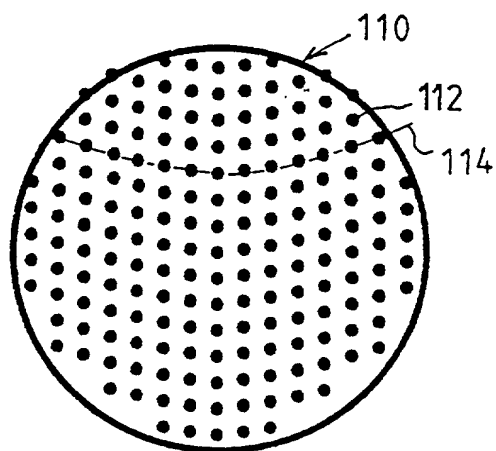


FIG. 16



Feld = field
 Pupille = pupil
 Du = Diameter

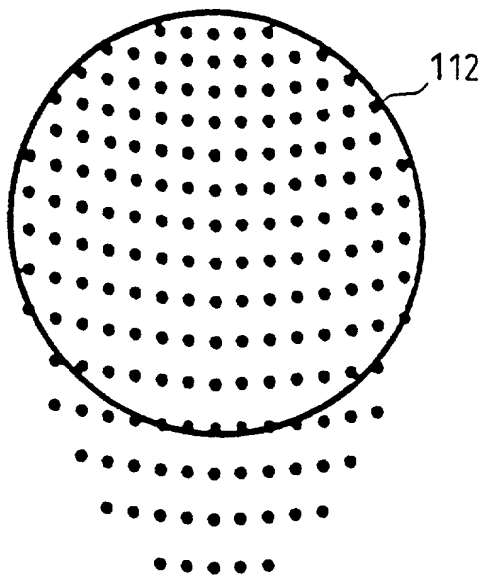


FIG. 17

Du_{Feld}

$Du_{Pupille}$

FIG. 18

NA_{Ret}

FIG. 19

Du_{Feld}

$Du_{Pupille}$

NA_{Ret}

Feld = field
 Pupille = pupil
 Du = Diameter
 Quelle = source
 kol = collector
 Du_{Bl} = diaphragm
 diameter

FIG. 20

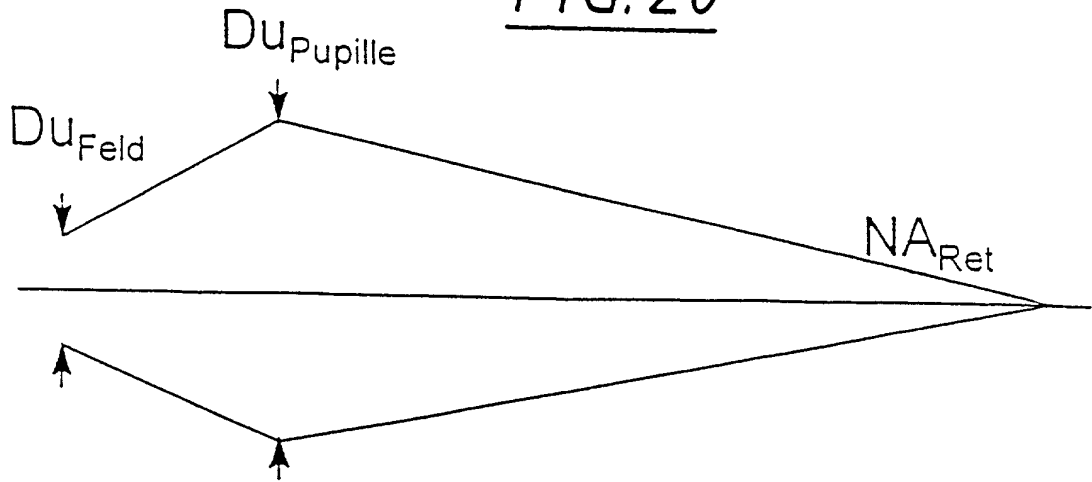


FIG. 21

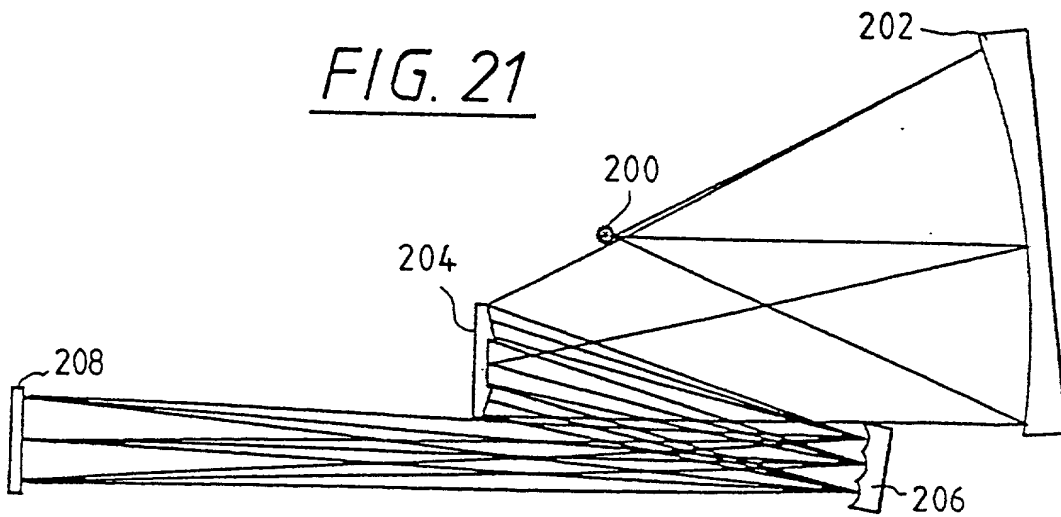


FIG. 22

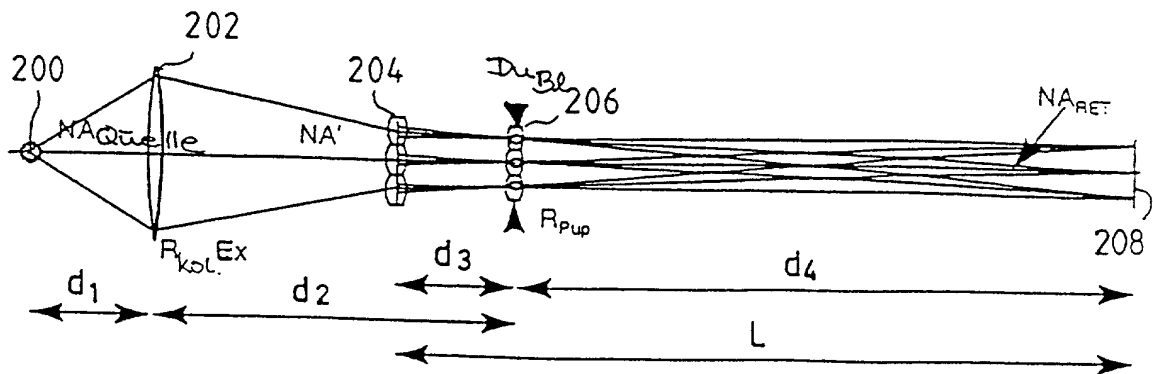


FIG. 23

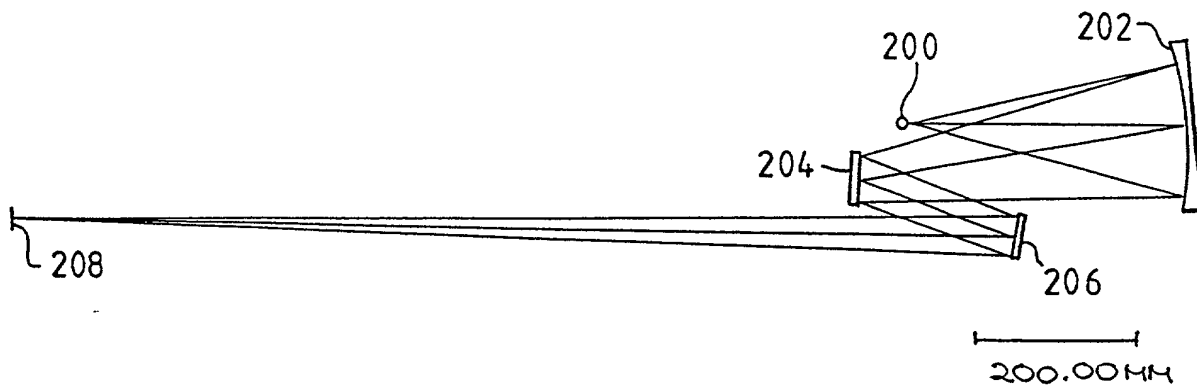


FIG. 24

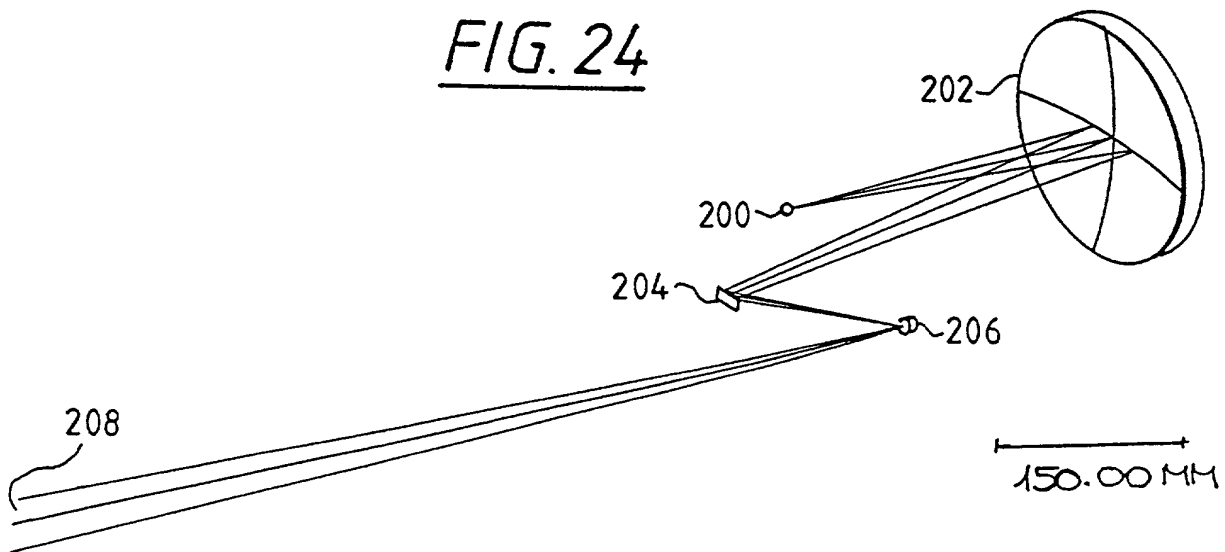


FIG. 25

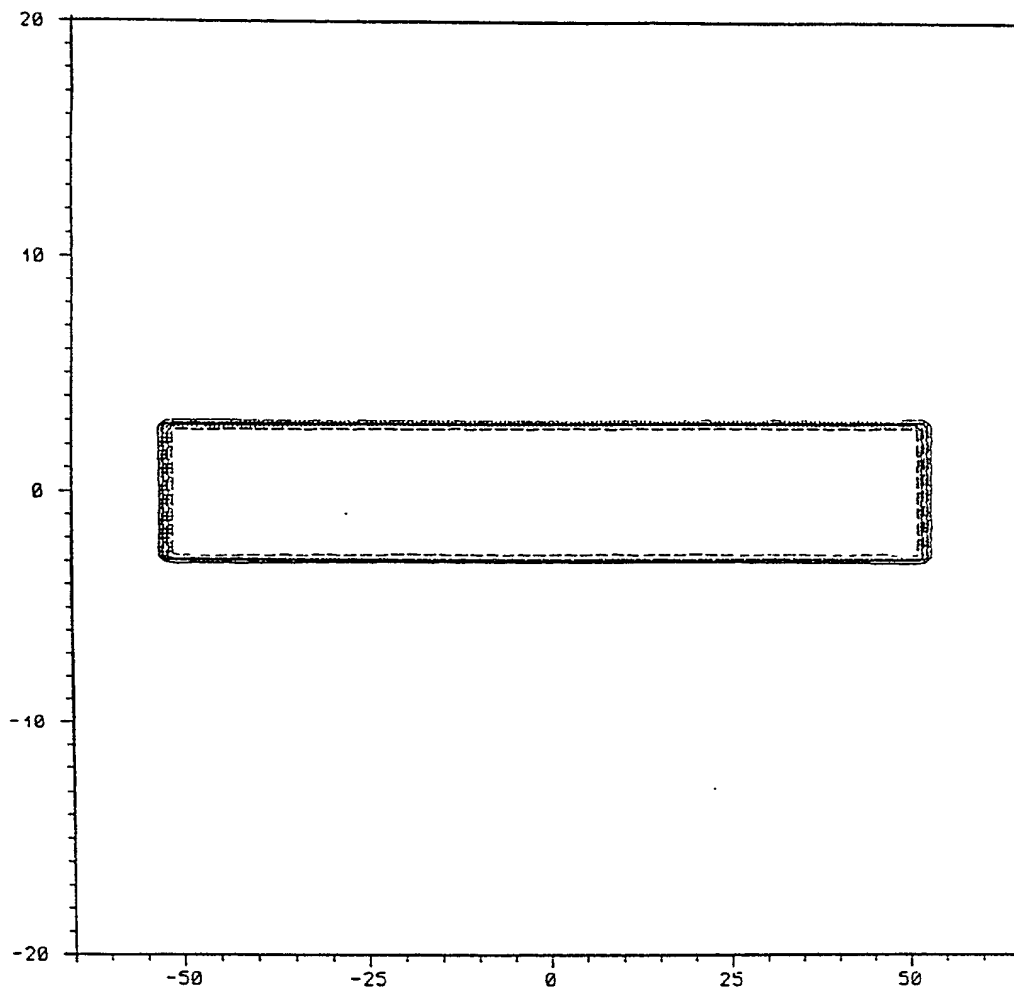


FIG. 26

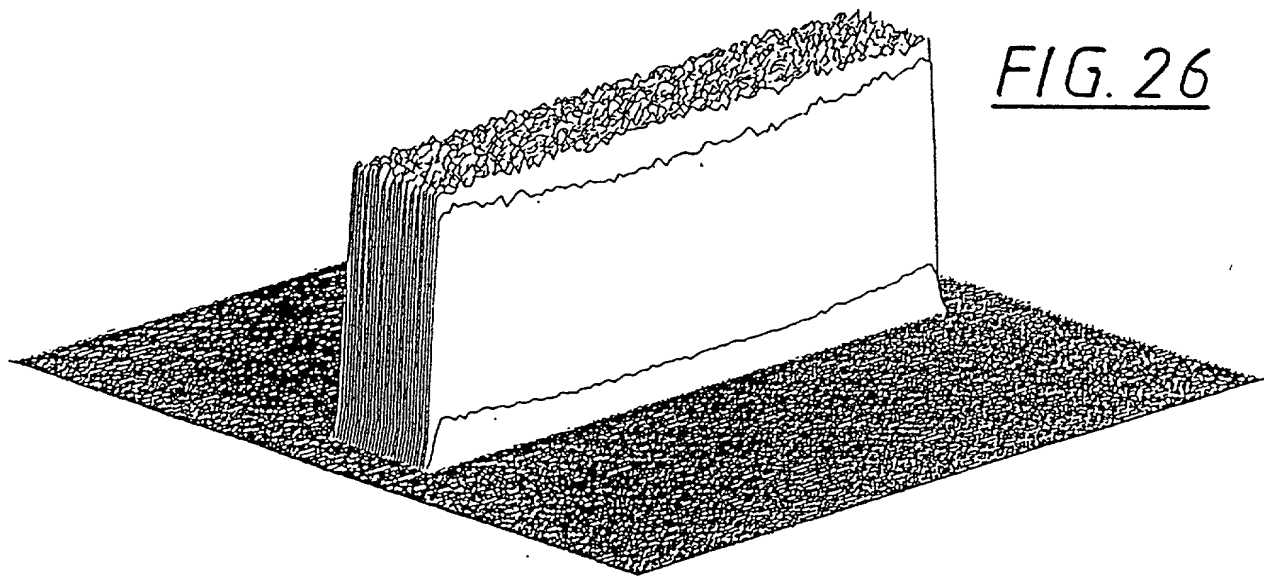


FIG. 27

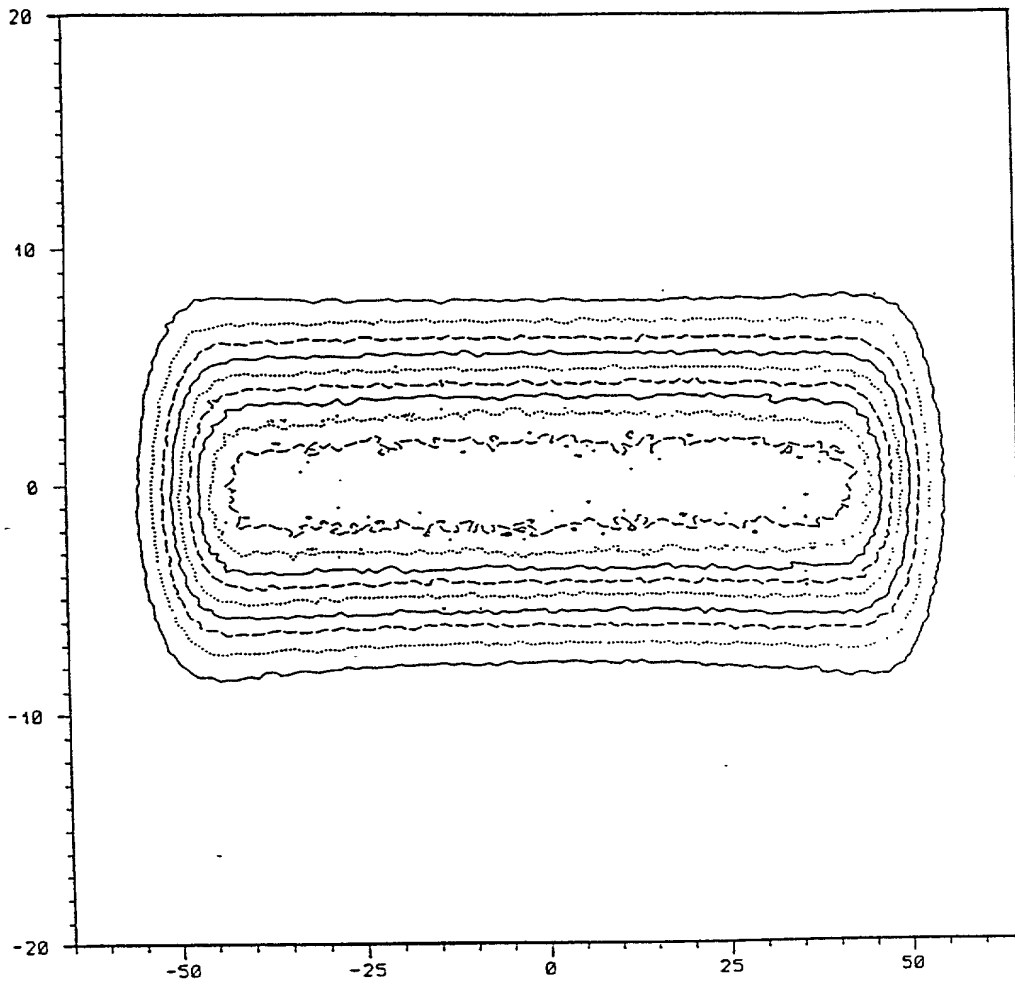
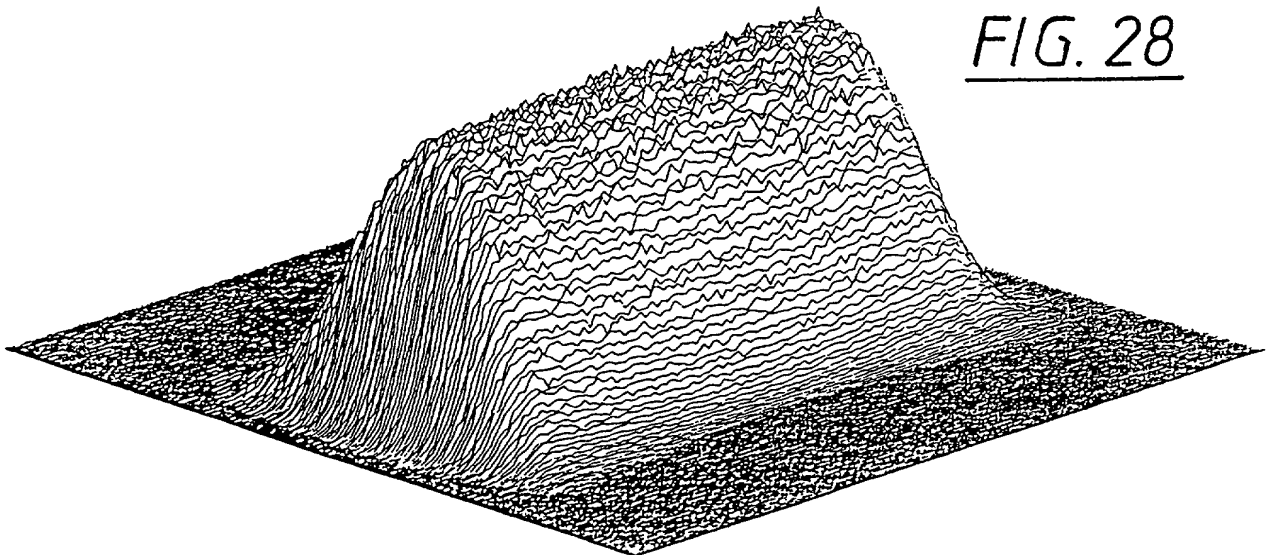
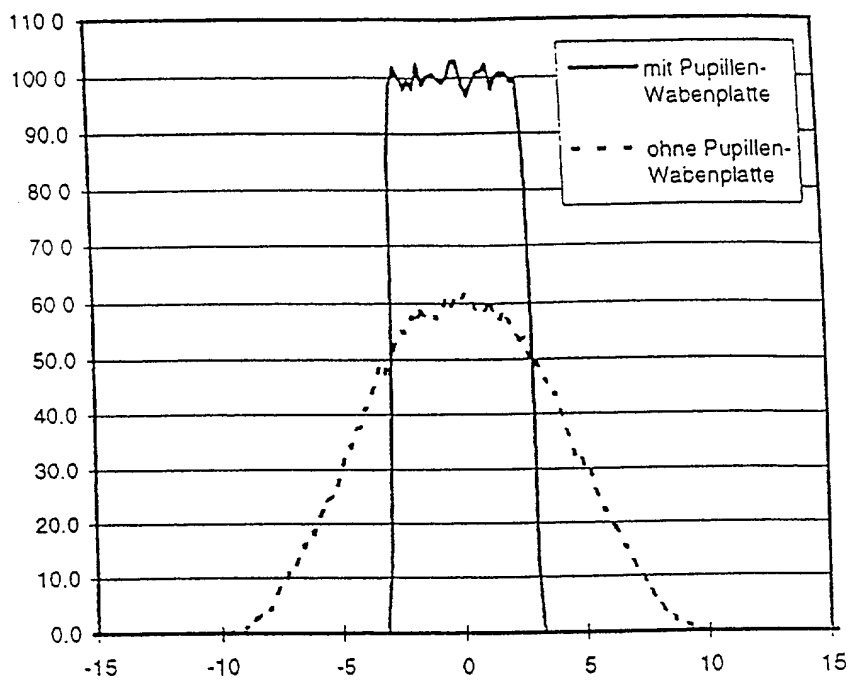


FIG. 28



Intens. [%]

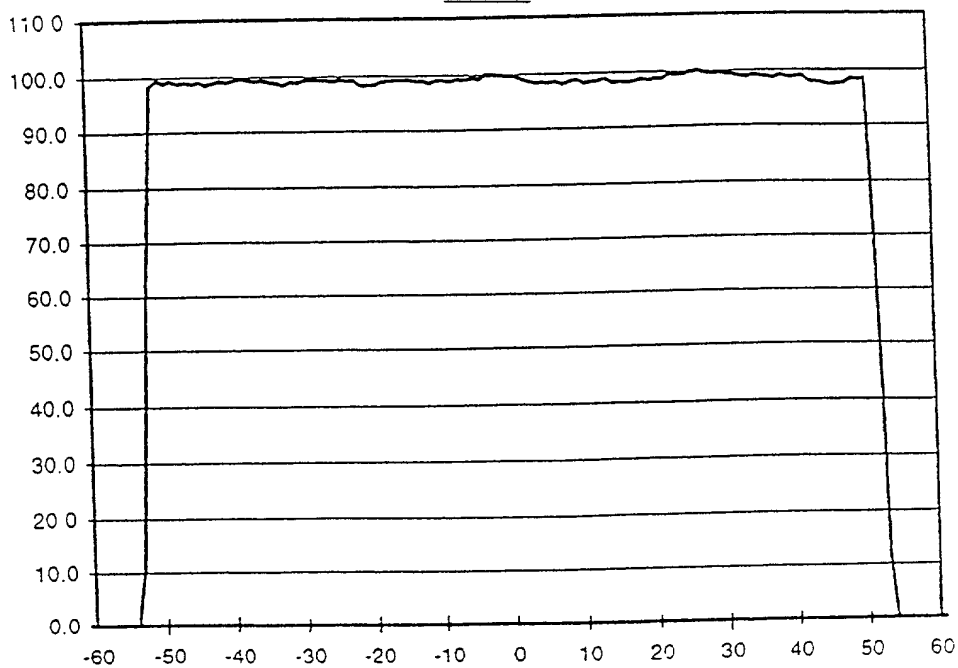
FIG 29



— with pupil
honeycomb plate
--- without pupil
honeycomb plate

x-axis: Y in the reticule plane [nm]

FIG. 30



y-axis: scan energy [%]

x-axis: X in the reticule plane [mm]

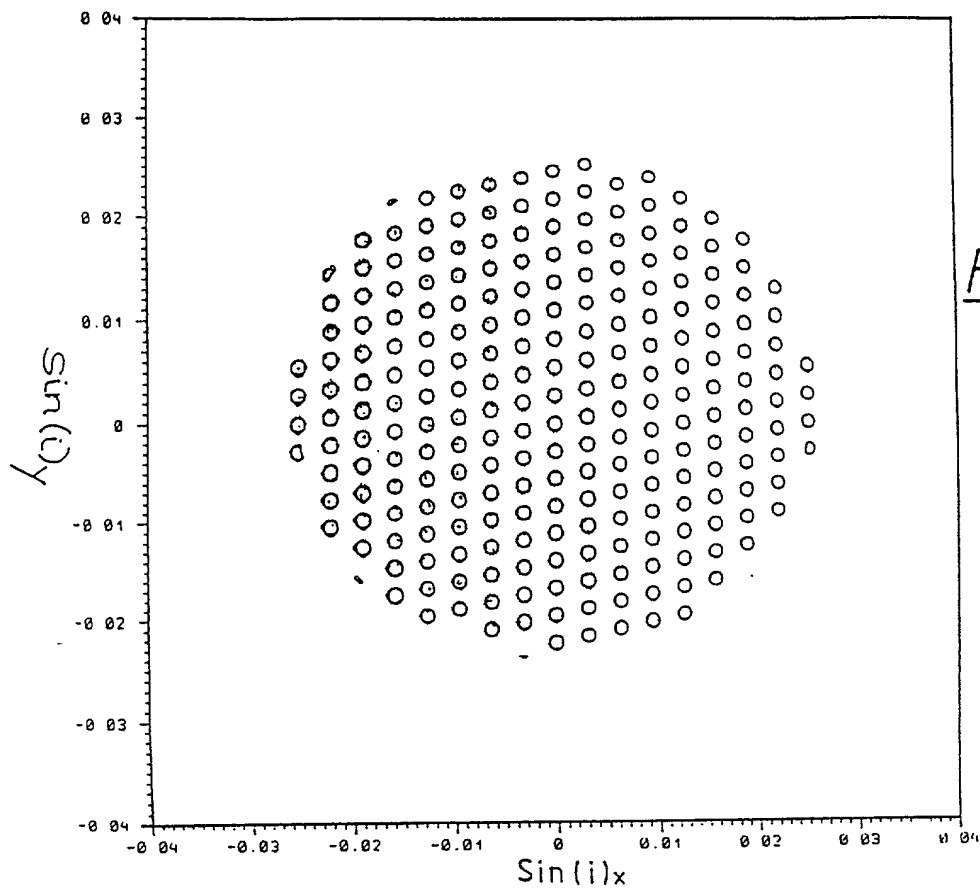


FIG. 31

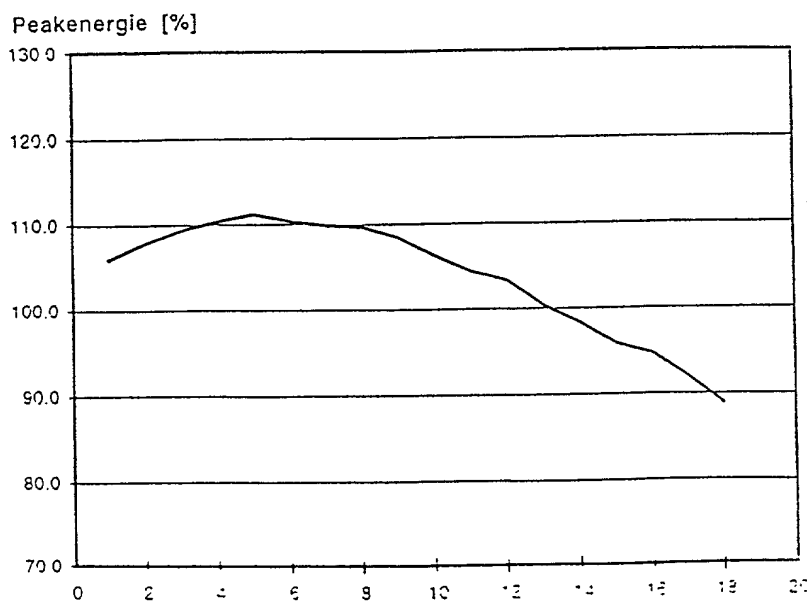


FIG. 32

y-axis: peak energy [%]
x-axis: number of [illegible]

FIG. 33

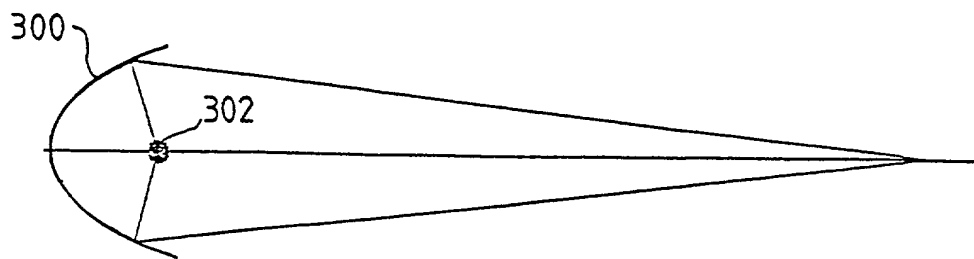


FIG. 34

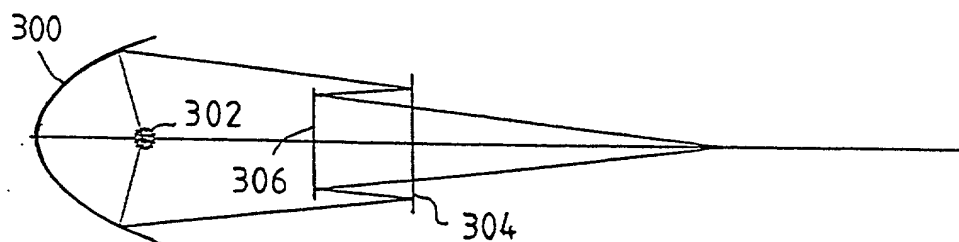


FIG. 35

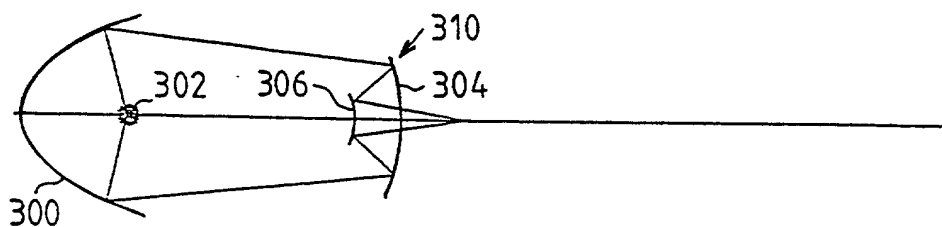


FIG. 36

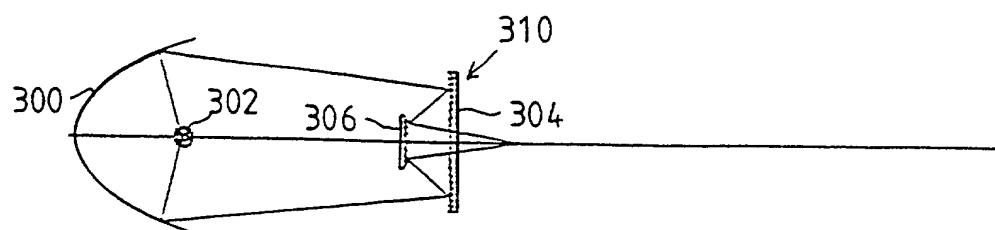


FIG. 37

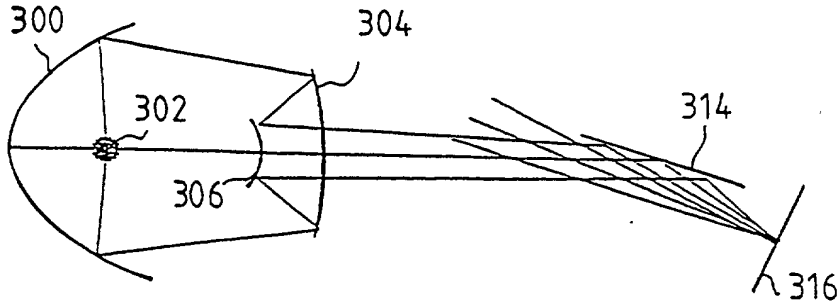


FIG. 38

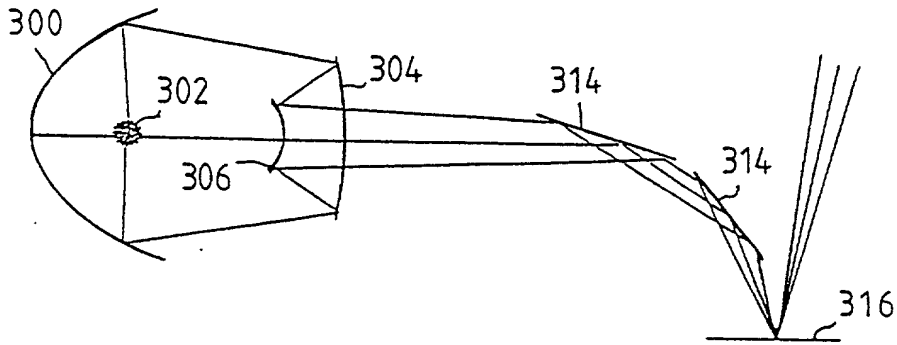
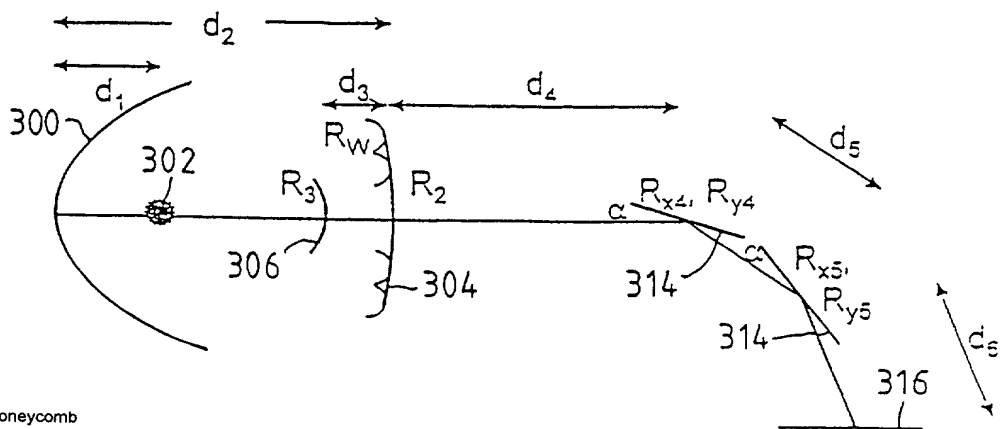


FIG. 39



$$R_W = R_{\text{honeycomb}}$$

FIG. 40

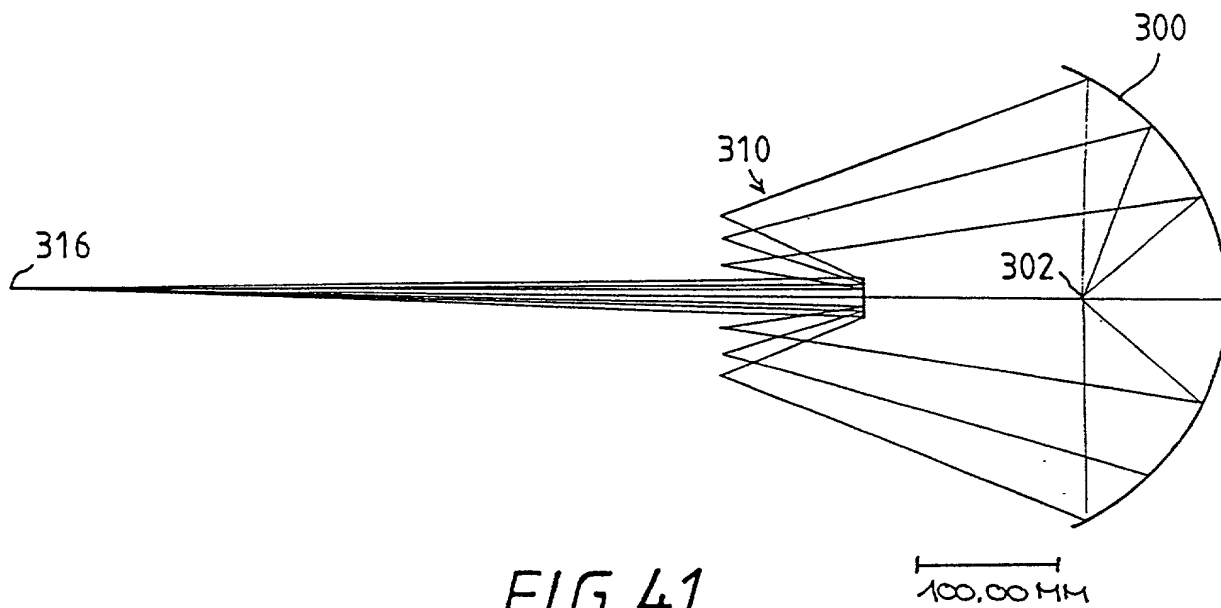


FIG. 41

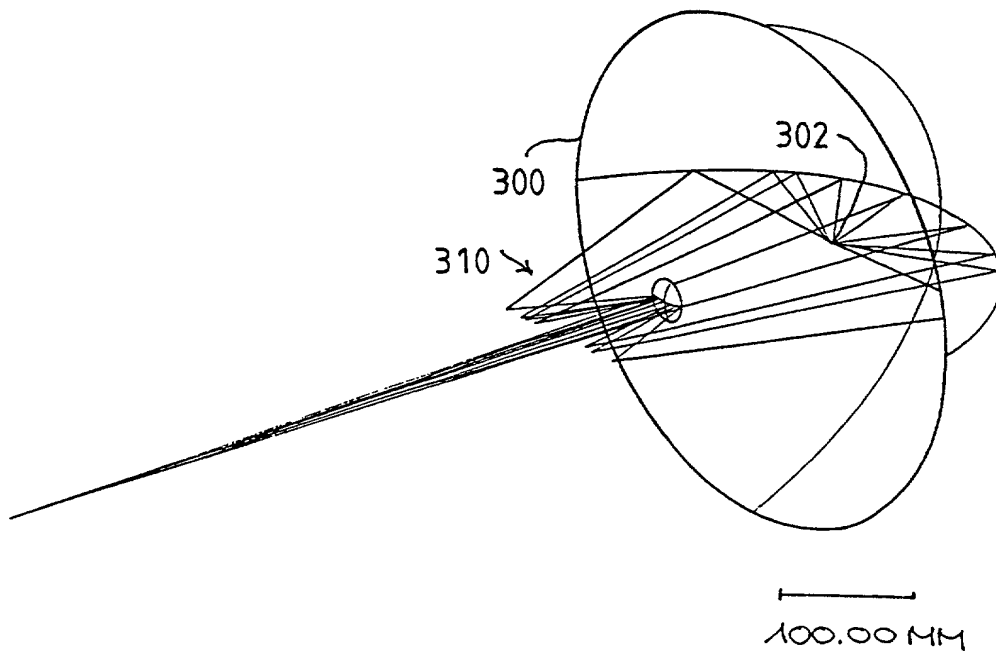


FIG. 42

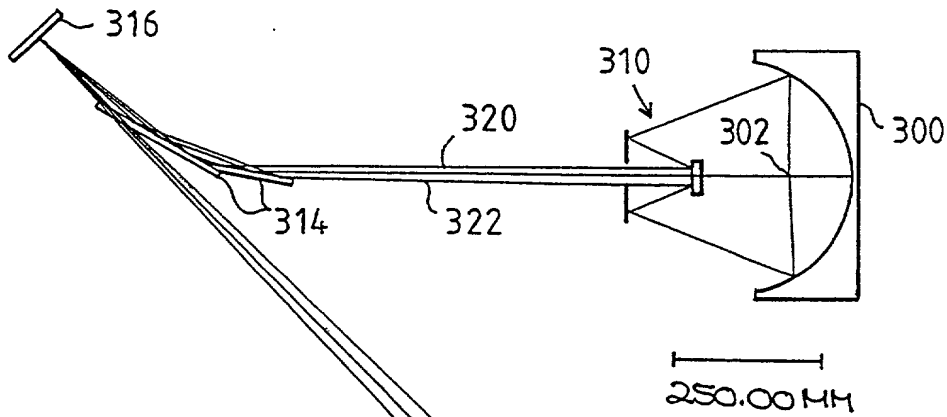
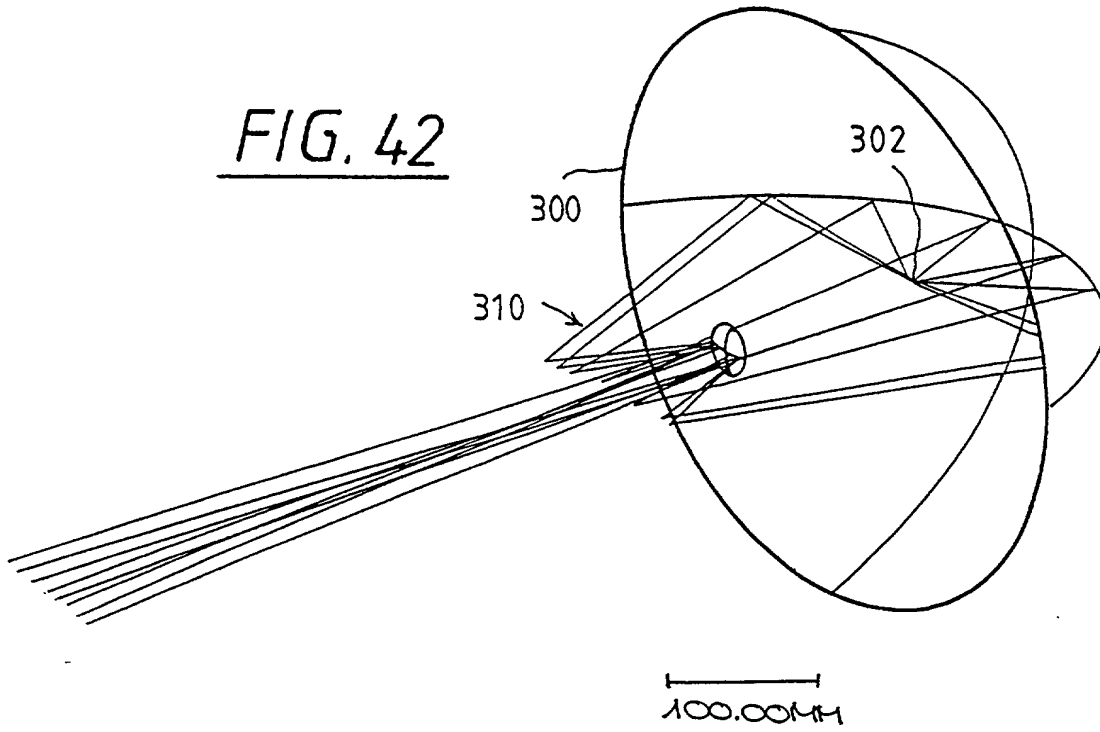


FIG. 43

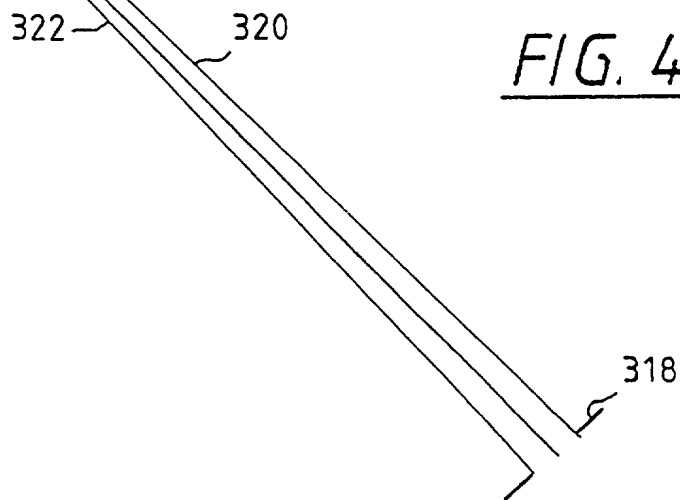


FIG. 44

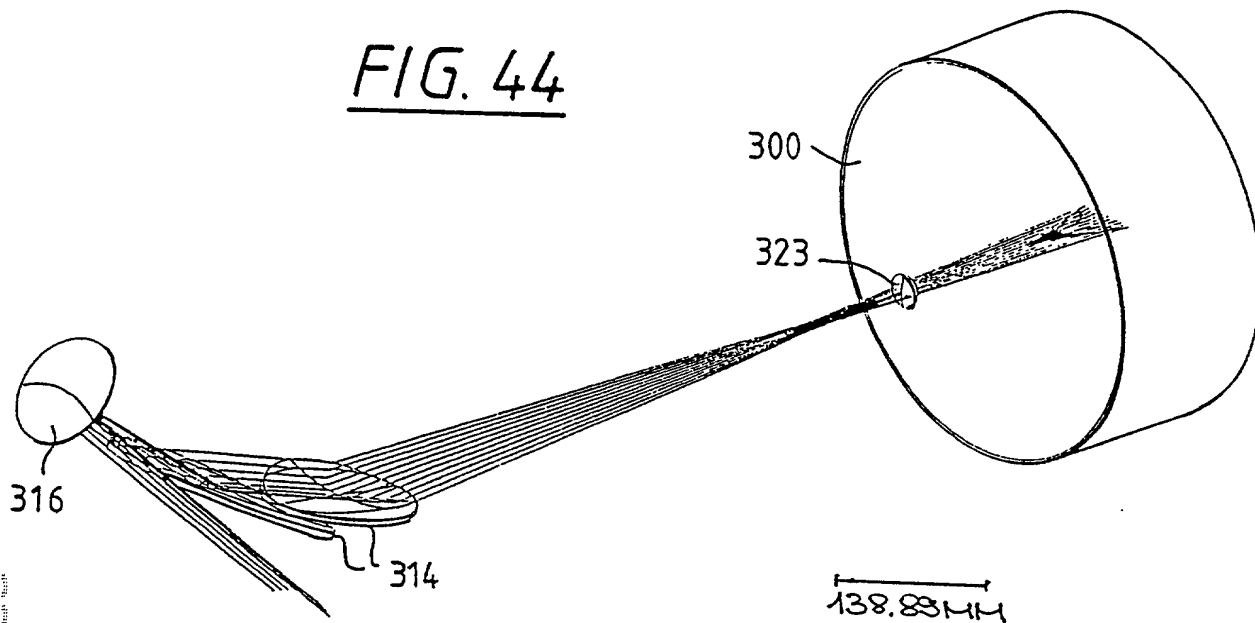


FIG. 45

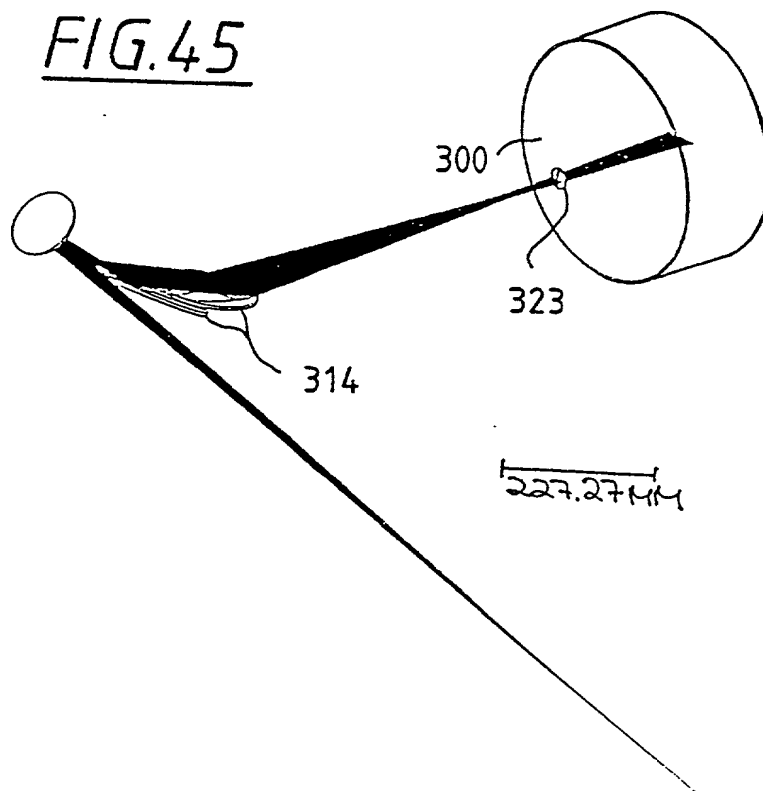


FIG. 46

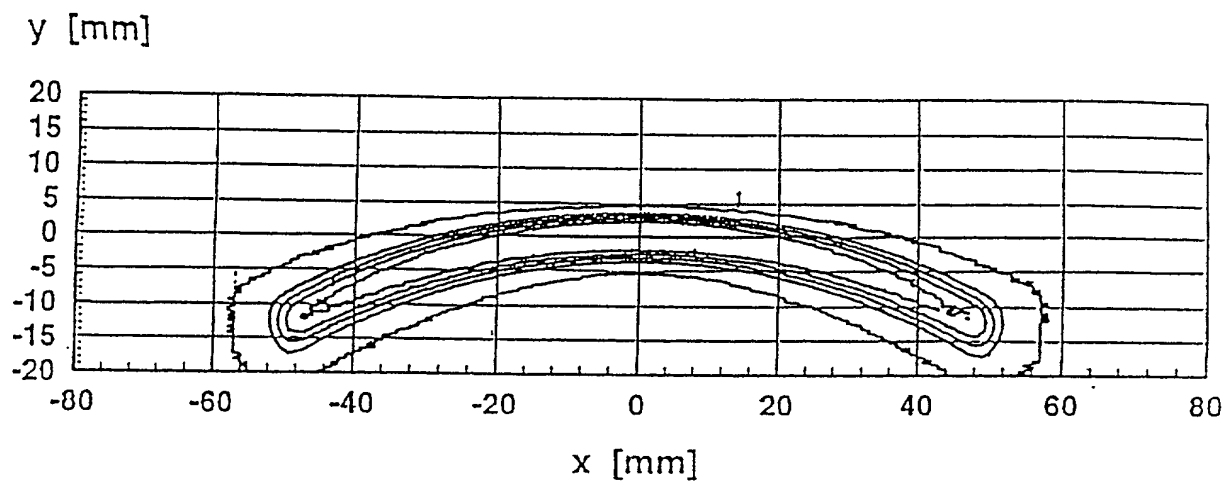
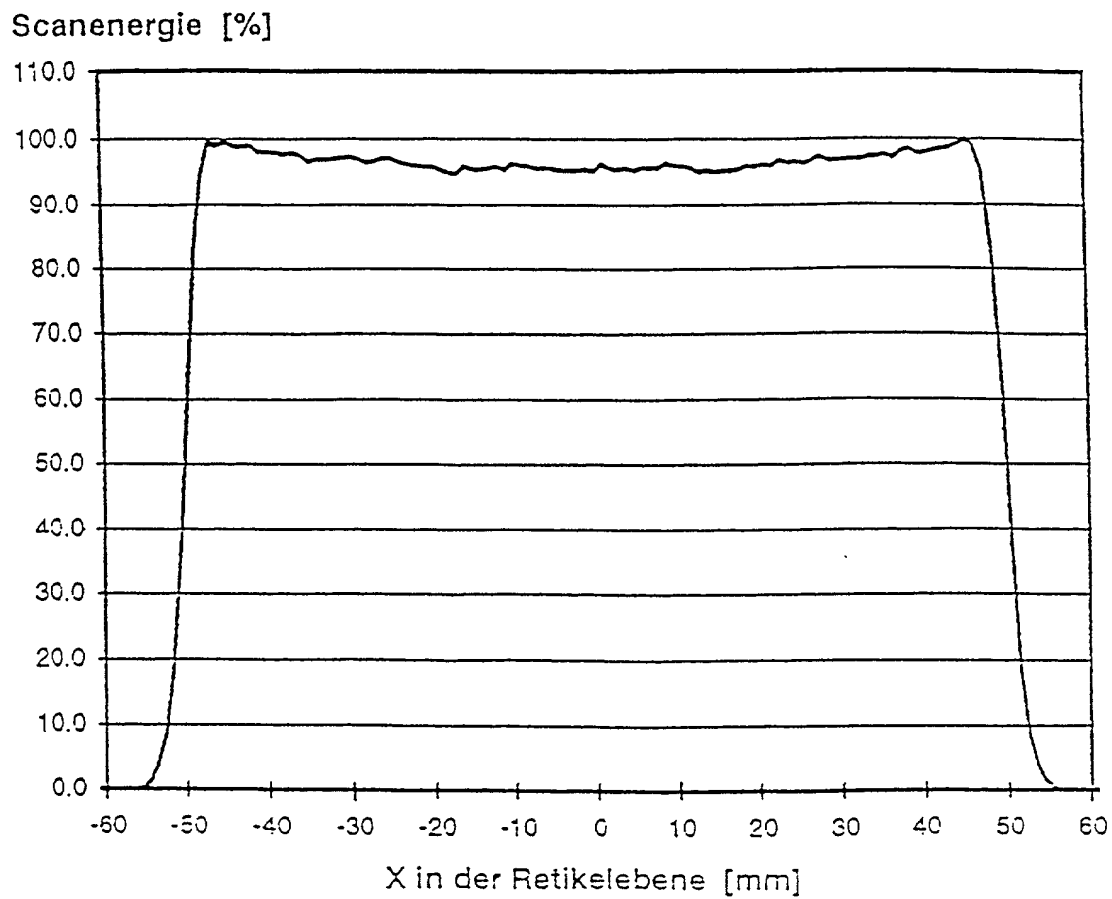


FIG. 47



y-axis: scan energy [%]

x-axis: x in the reticule plane [mm]

FIG. 48

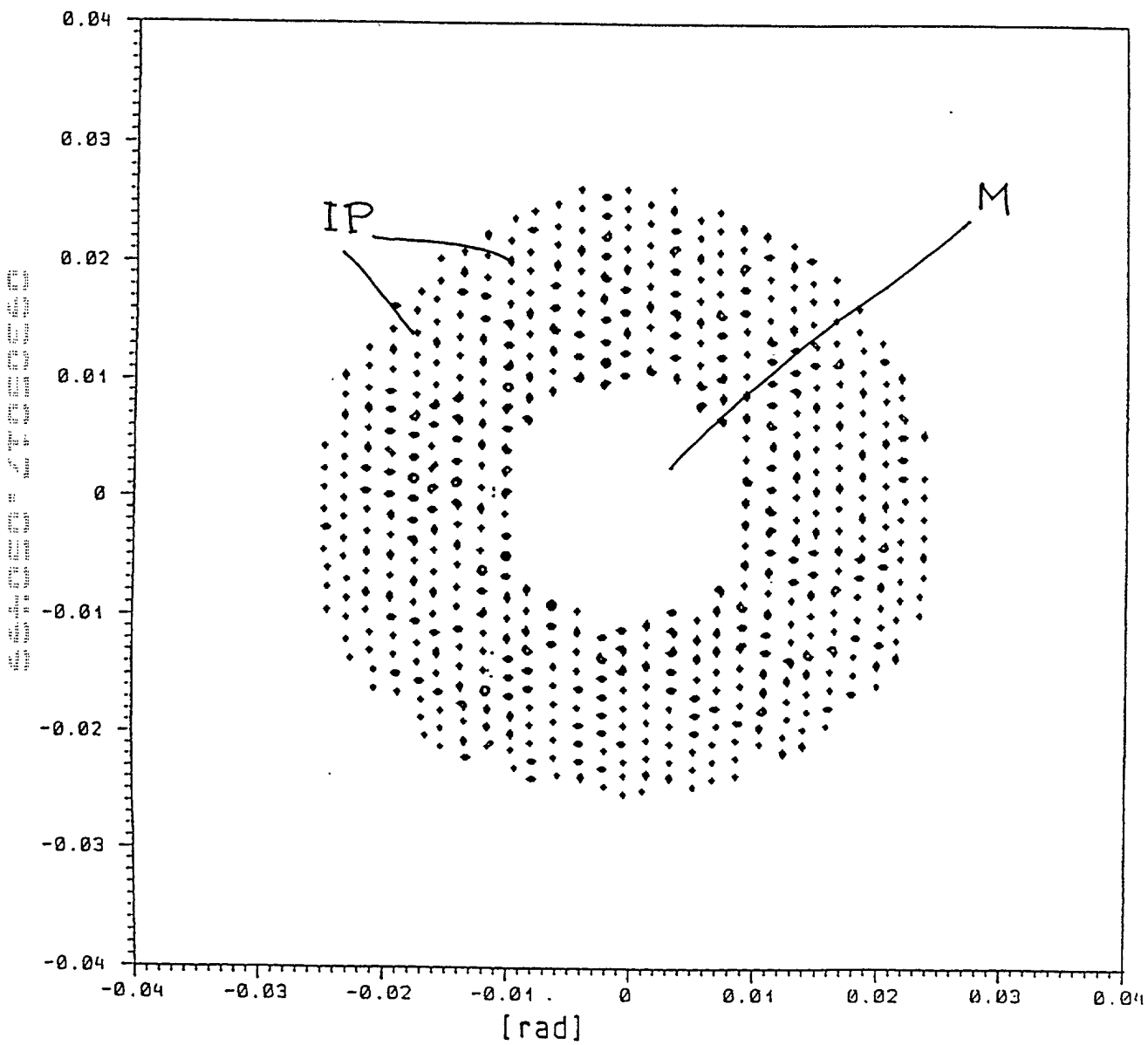


FIG. 48A

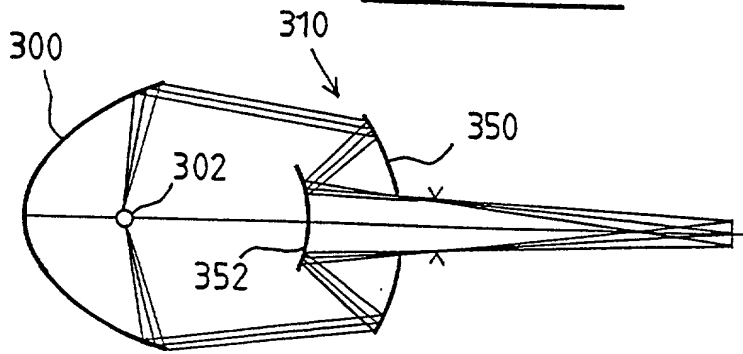


FIG. 48B

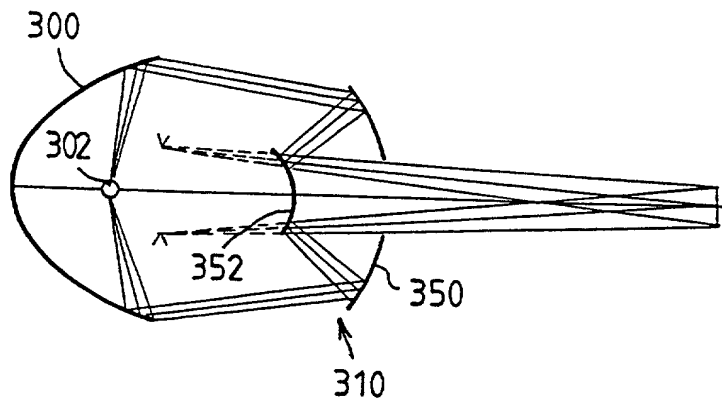
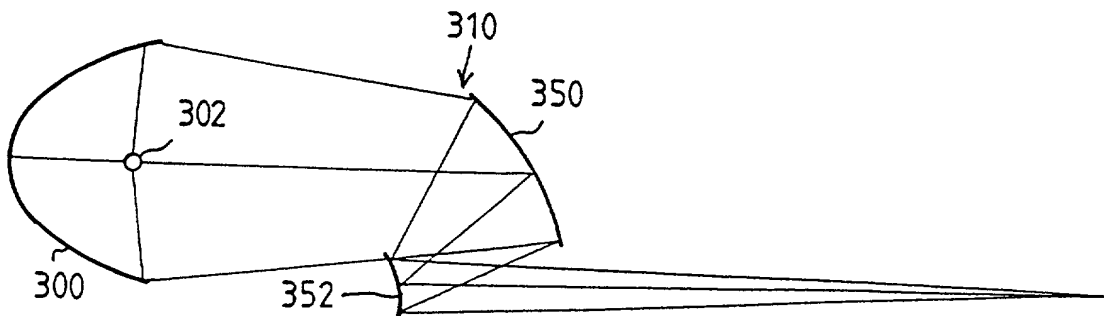


FIG. 48C



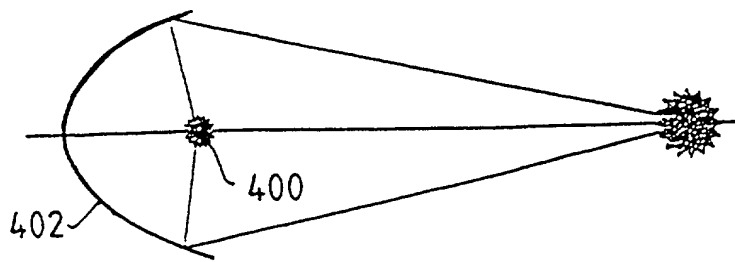


FIG. 49

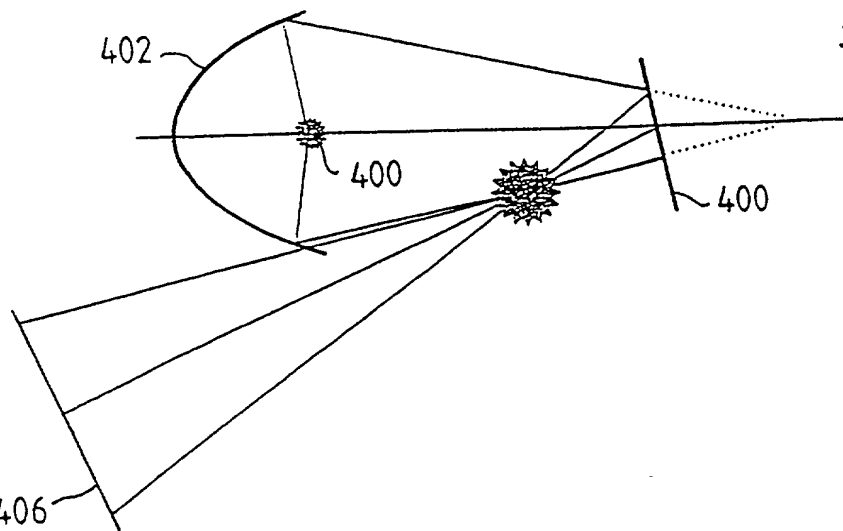


FIG. 50

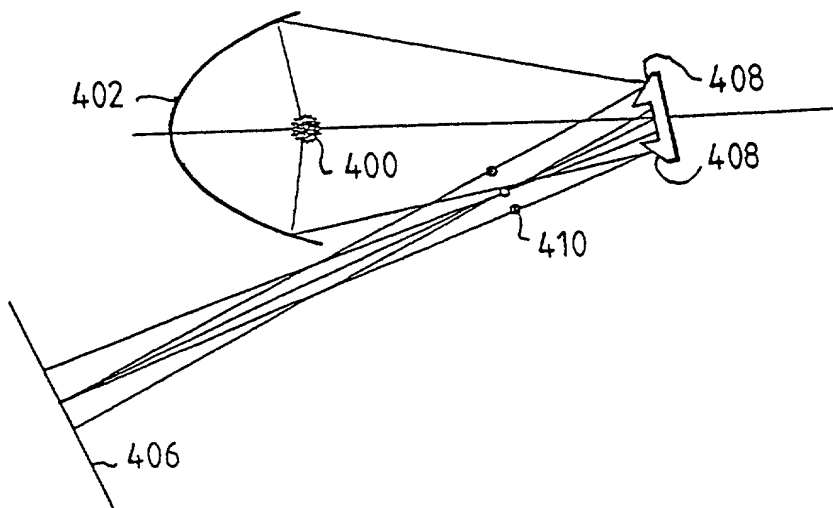


FIG. 51

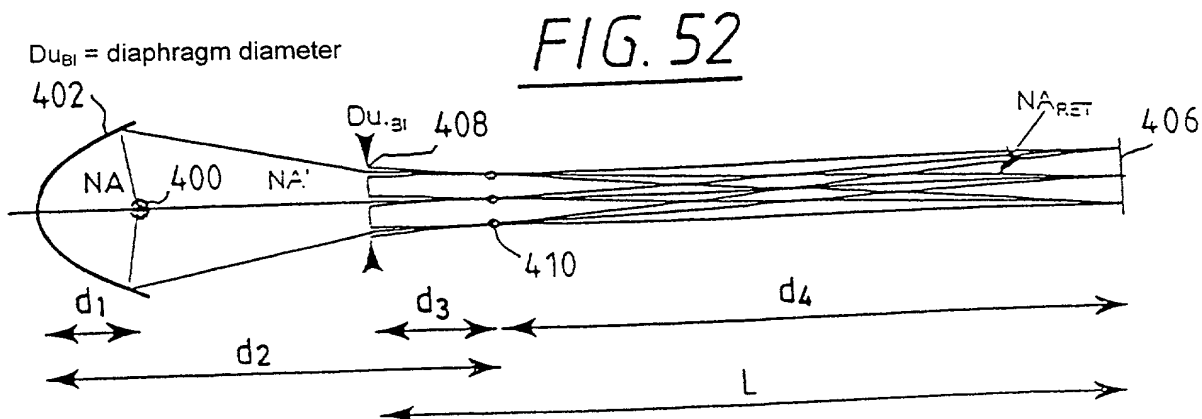


FIG. 53

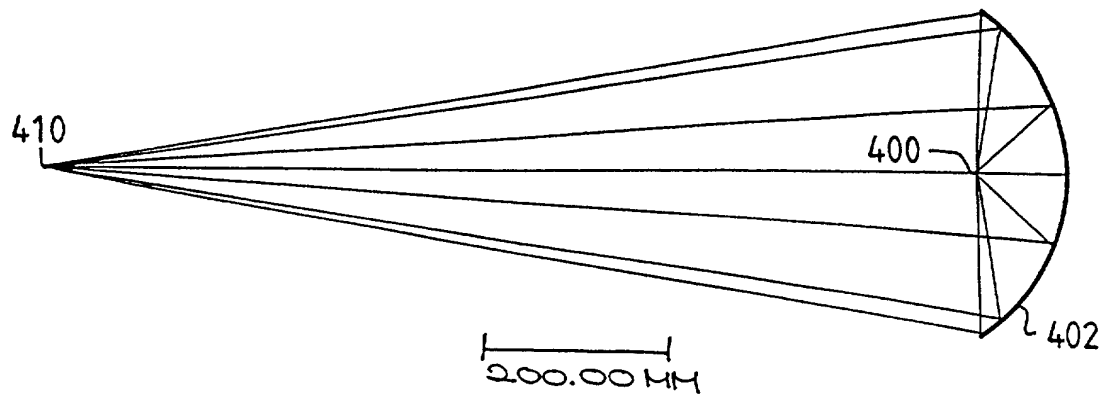


FIG. 54

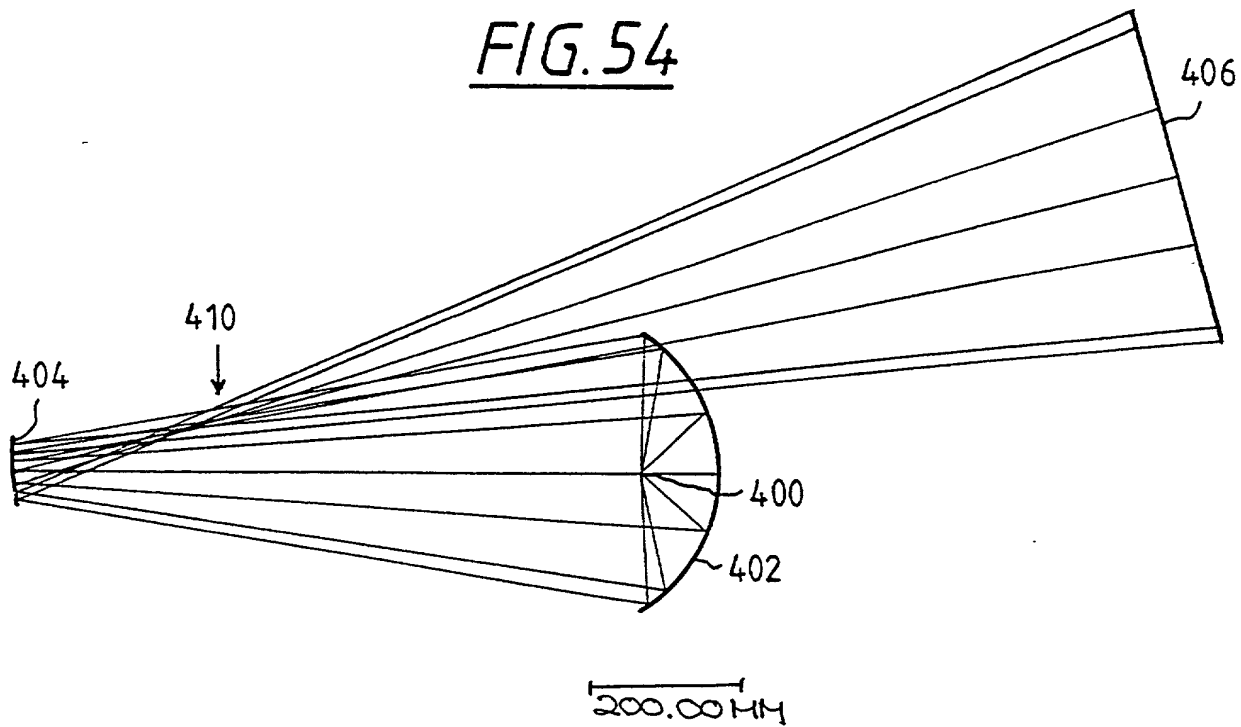


FIG. 55

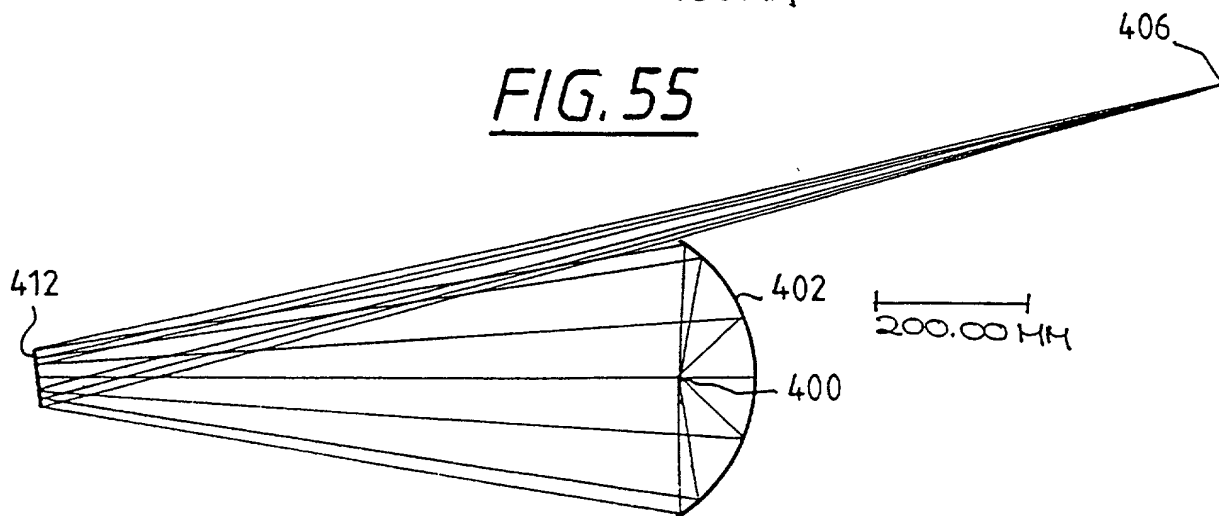


FIG. 56

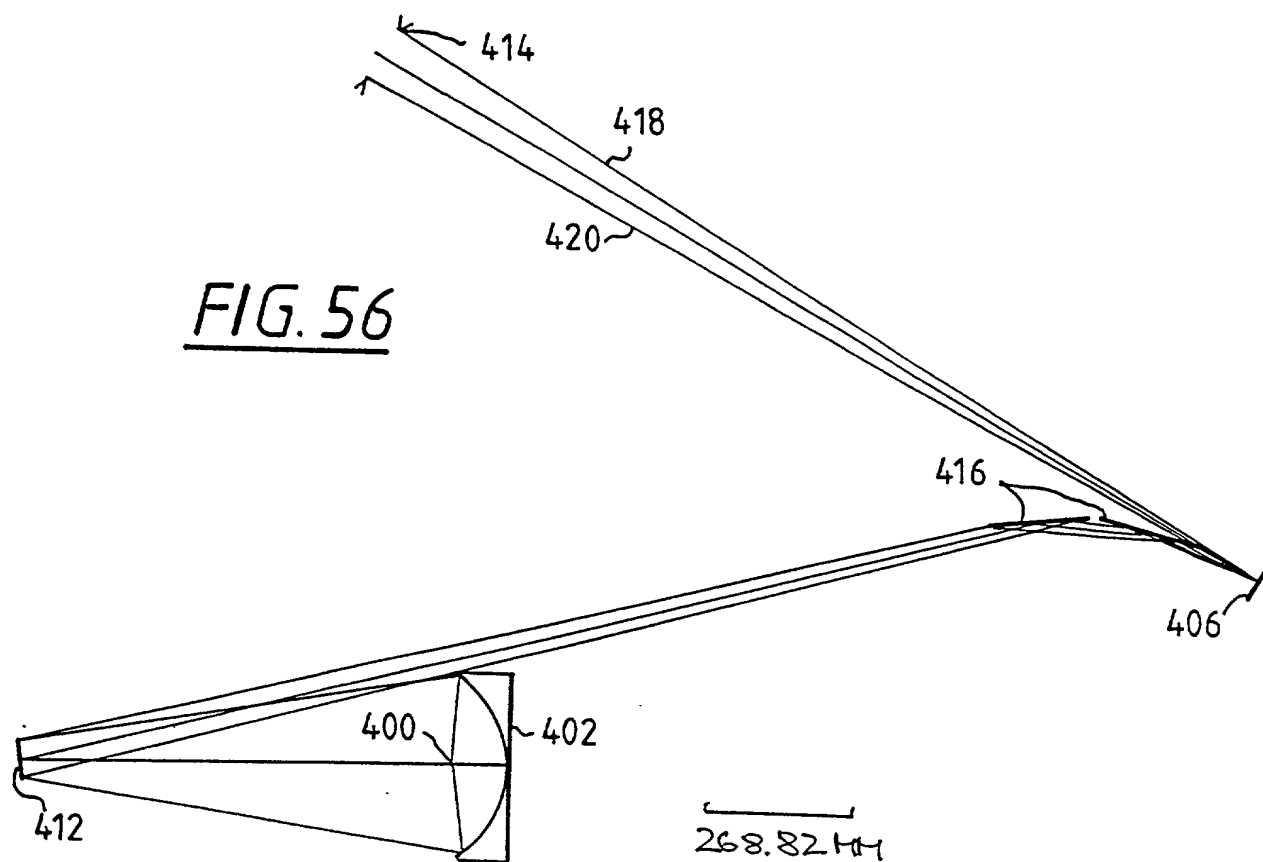


FIG. 57

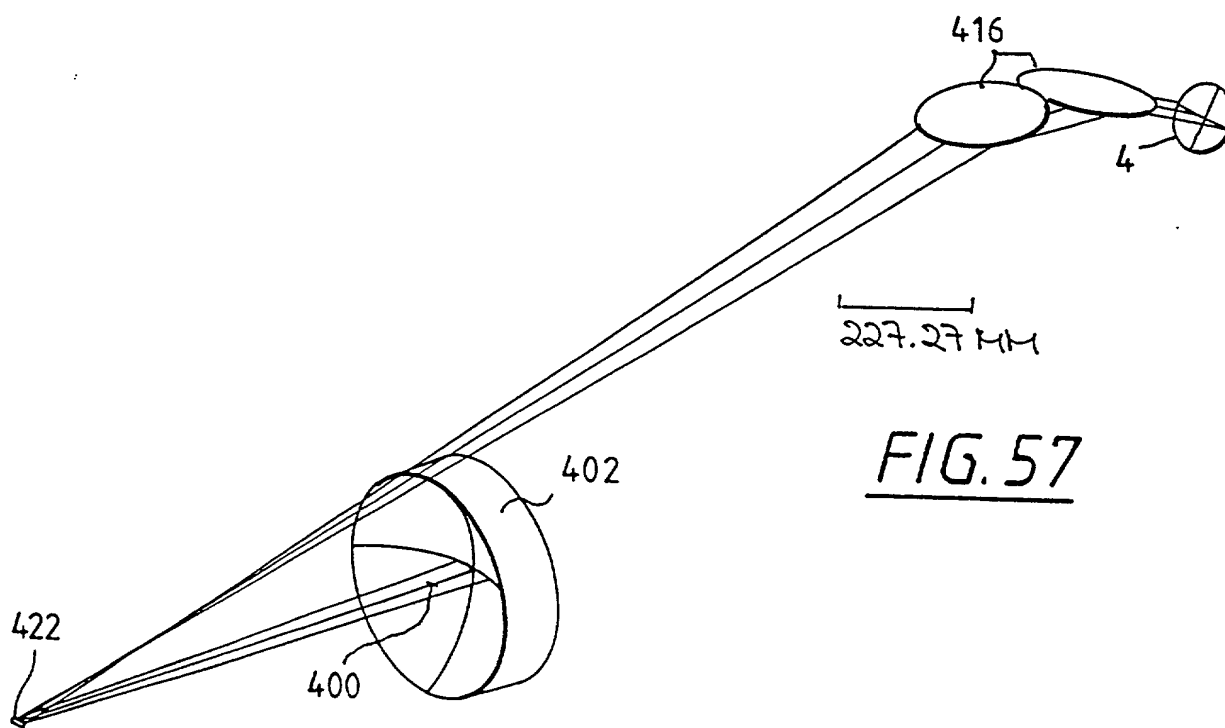


FIG. 58

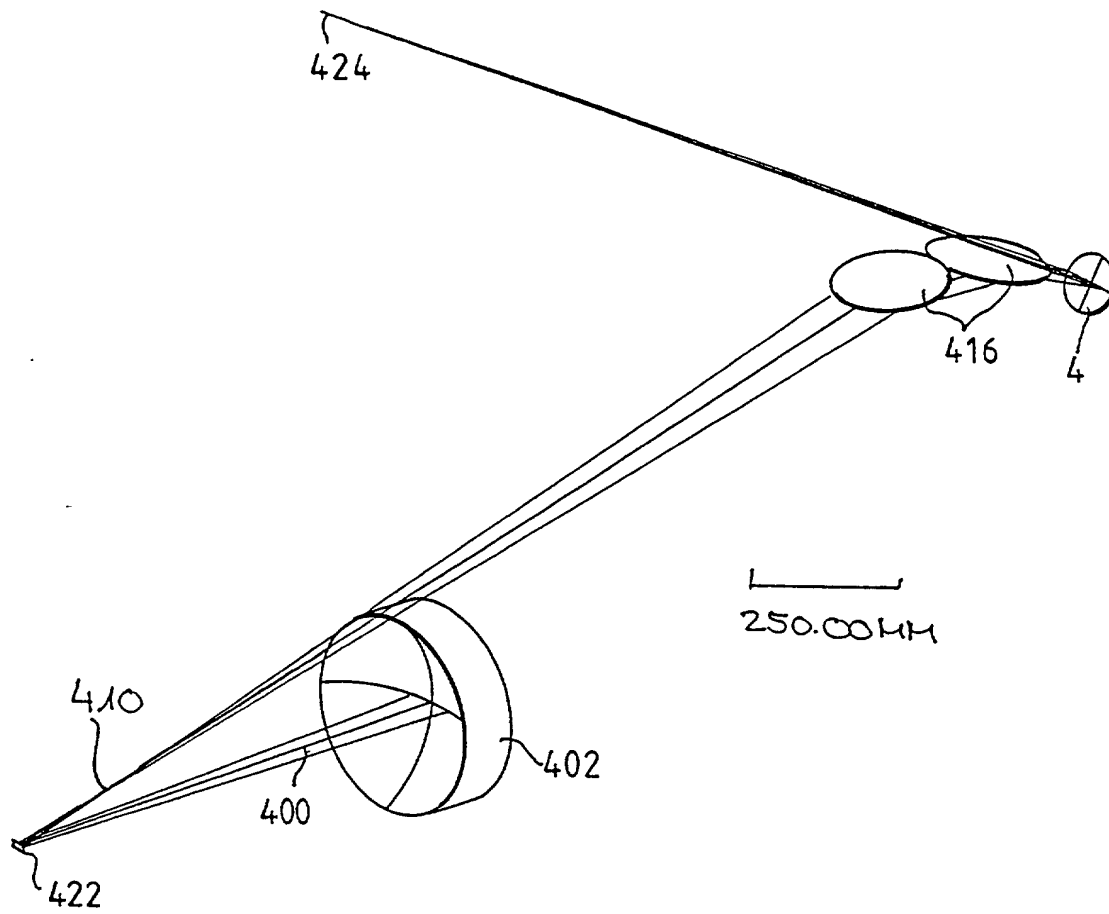
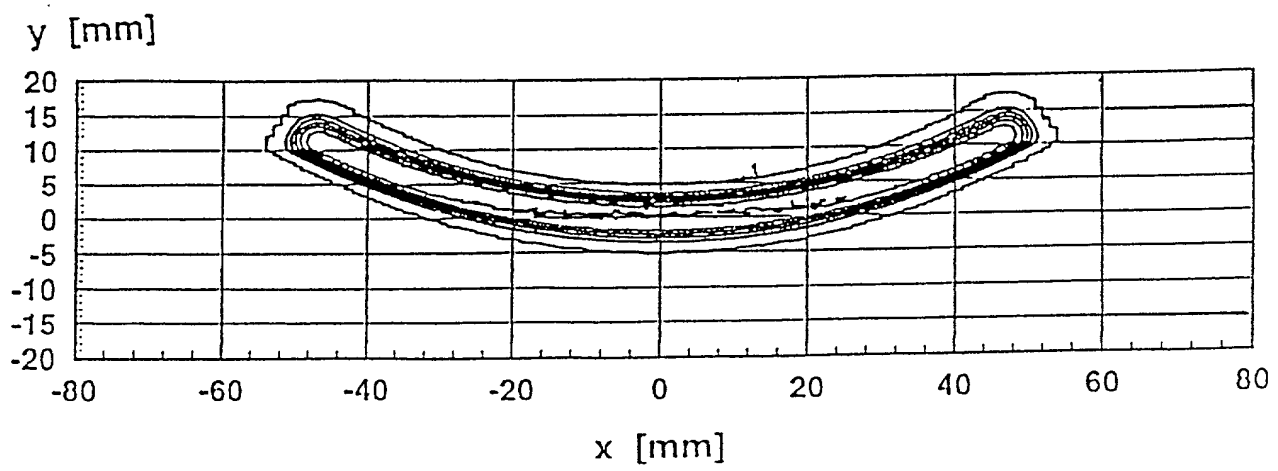


FIG. 59



y-axis: scan energy [%]
x-axis: X in the reticule plane [mm]
Scanenergie [%]

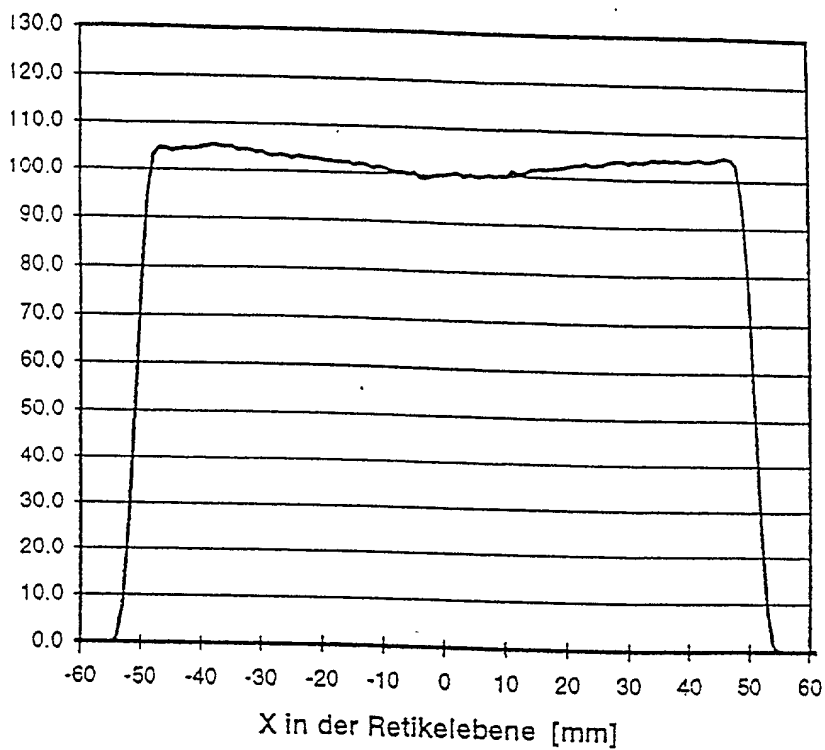


FIG. 60

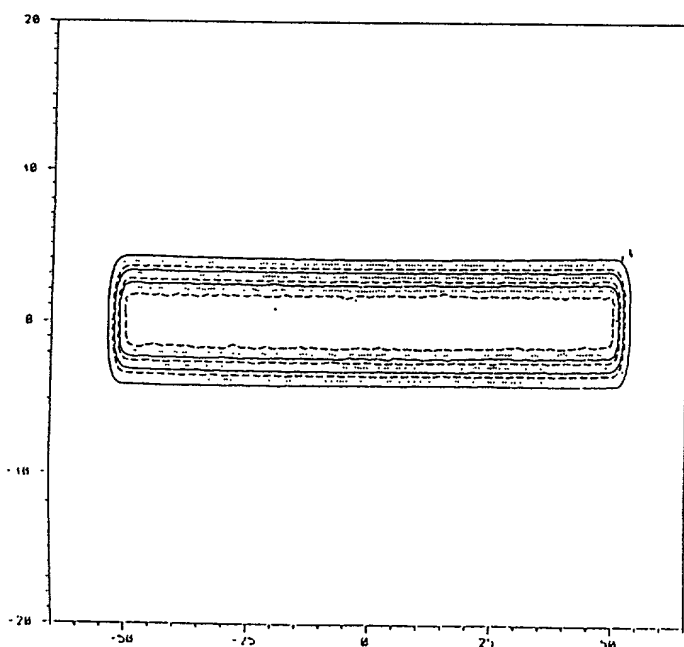


FIG. 61

FIG. 62

y-axis: intensity [%]

x-axis: Y in the reticule plane [mm]

— 50- μ m source

- - - 200- μ m source

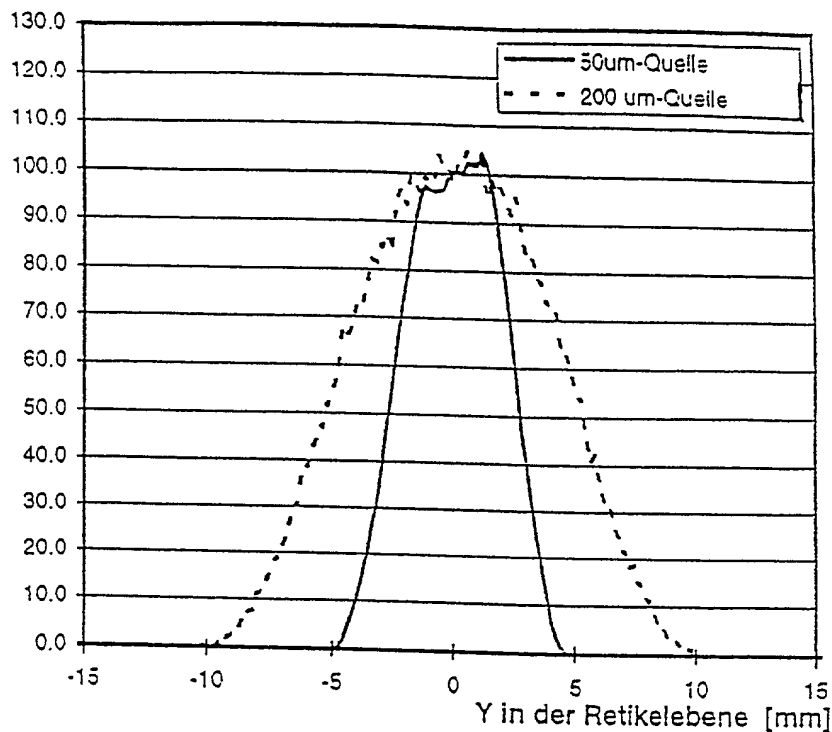


FIG. 62

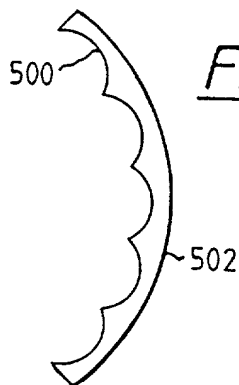


FIG. 63A

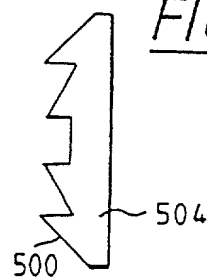
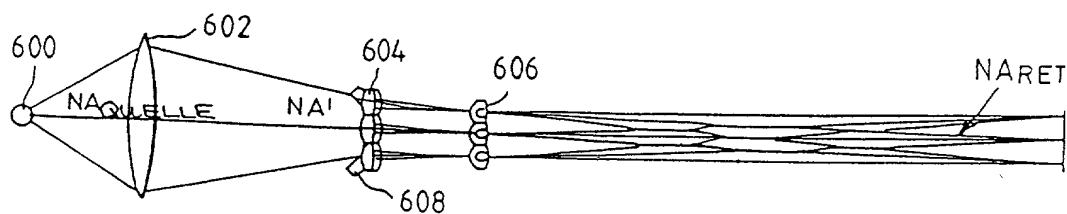


FIG. 63B

FIG. 64

Quelle = source



P 14592 US

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATIONDocket No. 637.0001USU

As below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our respective names.

We believe we are the original, joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ILLUMINATION SYSTEM PARTICULARLY FOR EUV LITHOGRAPHY

the specification of which

(check one) X is attached hereto.

_____ was filed on _____
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to us to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate(s) listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate(s) having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

<u>Prior Foreign Application(s)</u>			<u>Priority Claimed</u>	
<u>198 19 898.1</u> (Number)	<u>Germany</u> (Country)	<u>5 MAY 1998</u> (Day/Mon/Year Filed)	<u>X</u> Yes	<u> </u> No
<u>199 03 807.4</u> (Number)	<u>Germany</u> (Country)	<u>2 FEB 1999</u> (Day/Mon/Year Filed)	<u>X</u> Yes	<u> </u> No
<u>299 02 108.4</u> (Number)	<u>Germany</u> (Country)	<u>8 FEB 1999</u> (Day/Mon/Year Filed)	<u>X</u> Yes	<u> </u> No

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Ser No.)	(Day/Mon/Year Filed)	(Status - patent, pend., abandon.)
-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------

(Application Ser No.)	(Day/Mon/Year Filed)	(Status - patent, pend., abandon.)
-----------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As named inventors, we hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Date

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Karl-Heinz Schuster

Date

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1999

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Inventor's signature  Date 29-4-99
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